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KENT ON SUNDAY

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PUB BEER BOYCOTT PROTEST

Union says action could mean £1 off a pint

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

DRINKERS could enjoy up to three months of cut-price boozing if Kent pub tenants decide to protest against high rental charges.

Up to £1 could be knocked off the price of a pint of lager if managers refuse to sell the alcohol supplied by their landlords, and instead purchase it cheap from a wholesaler.

According to the GMB union, large pub firms are charging tenants as much as four times the levels assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) as being fair open market rents.

The potential for industrial action was discussed by Kent managers at a meeting in Chatham on Thursday, with lead organiser Hayley Brennan claiming it will be "great for the consumer" if the boycott goes ahead.

She added: "It would entail pub tenants turning their brew line service off and buying their alcohol from somewhere else.

"Because they would be able to buy for a much cheaper rate, we could be looking at anywhere between 80p and £1 off a pint. We would also embrace the full 12-week period trade unions have under this action, which would be good news for drinkers.

"However, there's a very big climate of fear between tenants and pub owners and in that climate some of our managers don't like their landlords knowing they're in the union. So we'll be asking them what levels of action they're prepared to take."

According to the GMB, one pub manager in Gillingham is being charged £35,696 a year in rent – almost 300 per cent more than the £9,100 VOA assessment the union claims is based on a formula agreed with the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA). Another tenant in Maidstone is paying £28,000 per year, just over 245.7 per cent more than the £8,100 VOA assessment.

Earlier this month KOS Media revealed how 210 Kent pubs have gone out of business over the last 13 years, and Mrs Brennan says more will follow unless rates are reduced.

She added: "The overall decline in alcohol consumption in society has coincided with the private equity inspired financial engineering in tied pubs, which has gone badly wrong.

"This has resulted in sky-high rents for tied pubs, giving rise to inflated prices which drive customers away.

"This has led to an even greater decline in alcohol consumption in tied

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

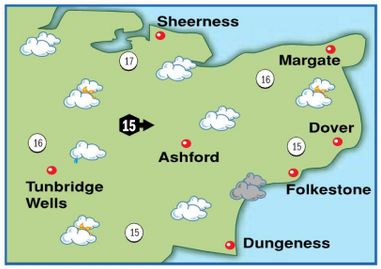
Picture: REX FEATURES

Star Olympian in new schools row

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

* Includes all surcharges and taxes. See website for details and full terms and conditions.

Kent today



TODAY: It looks set to be a rather cloudy day with the chance of some showery outbreaks of rain or drizzle at times. There will be gentle westerly winds. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F). **TONIGHT:** It will be rather cloudy with a few spots of rain or drizzle likely at times. Min temp 10-13C (50-55F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	drizzle	13	55	London	drizzle	17	63
Belfast	rain	15	59	Liverpool	drizzle	16	61
Birmingham	drizzle	16	61	Manchester	rain	15	59
B'mouth	cloudy	18	64	Newcastle	drizzle	14	57
Bristol	cloudy	16	61	Norwich	fair	16	61
Cardiff	rain	17	63	Oxford	cloudy	17	63
Cork	showers	16	61	Southsea	cloudy	18	64
Edinburgh	drizzle	14	57	S'hampton	cloudy	17	63
Glasgow	drizzle	14	57	Southport	drizzle	15	59
Isle of Man	cloudy	15	59	Swansea	rain	16	61
Leeds	drizzle	14	57	Torquay	drizzle	17	63

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.36am	Sunset	7.01pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.21pm	Moonset	2.23am	7.01pm to 6.38am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	09.27	5.6	22.03	5.7	10.14	6.0	22.43	6.0
Margate	10.15	4.1	23.00	4.3	11.07	4.3	23.47	4.5
St Mary's	03.02	4.4	15.21	4.8	03.49	4.7	16.04	5.1

Week ahead

monday Cloudy. Damp. max 19C min9C

tuesday Mainly fine. max 20C min 10C

wednesday Fine and warm. max 20C min 10C

thursday Cloud and rain. max 19C min 11C

friday Showers. max 18C min 10C

saturday Unsettled. max 17C min 8C

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KOS media

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Pub tenants in rents protest

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

pubs, meaning very low income for the tenants and pub closures on a weekly basis as they are forced to walk away – often with massive debts.

"The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to take our campaign forward in Kent to stop pubs that survived the Blitz and the 1930s slump from going under."

Despite GMB claims that the VOA/BBPA assessment formula is available to read on the internet, both organisations deny it exists. A BBPA spokesman said: "Contrary to the GMB's assertion, the BBPA has not agreed any formula with the VOA for the calculation of rates. It would be entirely inappropriate to do so.

"While the rateable value for pubs is derived from the commercial market rent, it is not the same as the commercial market rent and this applies to all commercial property. All pubs are assessed for rates on exactly the same basis as all other commercial properties."

'Transparency' on KCC big wigs' pay packets

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

DETAILS of senior officers' pay and expenses are to be published online as part of a radical move by County Hall chiefs to open up their budget books to the public.

From the end of the month, taxpayers will be able to see exactly how money is spent as part of a major overhaul looking to improve the relationship between Kent County Council and the community it serves.

In what is claimed to be the start of a transparent future for the authority, senior staff earning £85,700 or more will have to publish their expenses, salary and the hospitality they receive, and the number of staff earning between £48,000 and £69,000 will be published. The council will also publish a list of invoices every month for all expenditure over £500, and contracts valued at more than £50,000 will be disclosed.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting this week, group managing director Katherine Kerswell, who took over the top job from chief executive Peter Gilroy in July, said the move was a big step forward. Mrs Kerswell is leading the new 'open' culture of greater transparency. She said: "The experience of councils that have done a little of this has shown increasing confidence from their communities. Staff will have to learn new disciplines about recording what money is used for."

The change forms part of the coalition Government's plans to improve transparency in local authorities and to create better relationships with communities. In a report discussed by senior members and officers of the council, KCC stressed that people should be able to access information easily.

RADICAL: KCC group managing director Katherine Kerwell wants an 'open' culture

The report states: "We must explain to residents, in plain English, how we are achieving best value for the taxpayers' money that we spend. In the changing landscape of the public sector, KCC views transparency as a fundamental principle of how we do business.

"Staff must understand that the public has a right to know how taxpayers' money is spent and how effectively it is used.

"It is about embedding a mindset that assumes all information (with well defined exceptions) will become publicly available."

Cllr Roger Gough, cabinet member for corporate support services and performance management, said there were a number of things the Government had indicated local authorities should be doing.

"However, it is also important to emphasise there are things we think we should be doing," he said. "The world is changing and the way in which we can interact with citizens is changing. I want to work with the spirit as well as with the letter of the new legislation and I'd almost say the spirit is the more important thing."

Every KCC department has been told to ensure confidential information is not published. With the process under way, information from each area of the authority is scheduled to be published online over the autumn.

Debra Exall, head of strategic policy and co-author of the transparency programme report, said the change was an exciting step into the unknown.

"There is huge potential for engaging residents in analysis and discussion of information which will help us all shape the future direction of public services in Kent," she said.

• ***Once published, details will be available at www.kent.gov.uk.***

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

World Cup plot pair grounded

TWO drunks who hatched a plan to steal from a pub safe and jet off to the World Cup in South Africa have had their wings clipped by magistrates.

Barman Michael Frampton, 20, and regular George Warner, 27, were boozing with the landlord at the Wall pub in Whitstable when they decided to steal £5,773 from the safe after he went to bed. They planned to see the England v Germany match, and were caught at Gatwick after buying tickets to fly to Turkey. They were so drunk they originally tried to fly from Manston, which doesn't offer long-haul passenger flights. Canterbury magistrates gave Frampton, of Nightingale Avenue, Whitstable, a 120-day jail sentence, suspended for 18 months, an 18-month supervision order, a six-month alcohol treatment order and a six-month curfew.

Warner, of Argyll Road, Whitstable, was given 90 days in prison suspended for a year, a 12-month supervision order, alcohol treatment, and a three-month curfew.

Both were ordered to pay £904.54 compensation.

ARE YOU GAME?: Jonathan Edwards, Colin Jackson and Denise Lewis at the 2012 Olympic Stadium in London

Olympics call goes out to volunteer 'Gamesmakers'

THE search is on for thousands of volunteers to help run the Olympic Games – with Kent outlined as one of the key recruitment areas, *writes Marijke Cox.*

And it's not just stewards and serving staff needed for the event, but people with specialist skills such as umpiring and medicine.

Vicky Hall, from the volunteering team of London 2010 Organising Committee, said there were niche roles that needed to be filled.

"We'll need people to help sew the costumes for the opening ceremony or people with umpiring skills – there's a whole list of requirements," she said.

Members of the London 2012 committee paid a visit to Canterbury on Monday to invite people to become 'Gamesmakers'.

They will make up the 70,000 volunteers needed to ensure the Games run smoothly.

Mrs Hall said: "Kent is so close to London and we want the Olympics to not just be about the capital, but about the regions, too.

"The South East has already shown enthusiasm with a number of community projects being awarded the Inspire mark and 2,085 children signing up to the Get Set programme."

Both initiatives look to inspire residents and children to get involved in the Olympic Games.

Mrs Hall added: "We need people to understand what it takes to be a volunteer.

"We don't want people who only want to do it because they want free tickets or want to get backstage and speak to Usain Bolt.

"This is about taking on people who want to push themselves beyond the boundaries."

Cllr Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for community services, said: "Being an Olympic and Paralympic Gamesmaker does require commitment and time, but as with all volunteering, the benefits are always worth it for the experience."

Applications to be a volunteer are available at www.london2012.com

30,000 jobseekers across the county

MORE than 30,000 Kent people were on the dole last month, according to latest unemployment figures from the Government.

Medway has the most unemployed in the county with 3,923 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in August, followed by Thanet (3,923), Swale (2,868) and Shepway (2,413).

Tunbridge Wells residents are coping best with the downturn, with 1,178 on the dole, while west Kent neighbours Sevenoaks (1,178) and Tonbridge and Malling (1,418) also have relatively low figures.

The remaining numbers are for Ashford (1,745), Canterbury (2,077), Dartford (1,899), Dover (2,005), Gravesham (2,307) and Maidstone (2,157). Nationally there was an increase of 286,000 people in work.

Employment minister Chris Grayling said: "The jump in employment is good news but doesn't disguise the fact the system is failing to get people on welfare into jobs. It is neither fair for the nearly five million people on benefits, nor the taxpayer who supports them."

Steve in schools row

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

OLYMPIC rowing legend Sir Steve Redgrave has stuck his oar into the controversy surrounding the collapse of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

This week, the five-times gold medallist visited several Kent schools rebuilt before the scheme was scrapped by the coalition Government and told KOS Media there would be an "outcry" if those left out in the cold were not restructured in some way.

Sir Steve – widely regarded as Britain's greatest ever Olympian – is now an ambassador for building consultancy firm Gleeds, which worked on several completed BSF projects in Gravesham.

"The living and working spaces at the schools I visited were so impressive," he said."Everything was so open and spacious and every pupil is encouraged to contribute. They're not locked up in a box and made to feel different to everyone else, like I was when I was younger.

"I can't believe this Government won't carry on the project in some way because there will be a public outcry if it's not resolved. I'm sure something along the same lines will materialise eventually – it has to."

Sir Steve Redgrave

The schools Sir Steve visited on Tuesday were Northfleet Girls', Northfleet Technology College, St John's Catholic Comprehensive and Thamesview – four of just 11 schools which have been rebuilt or are currently under construction. More than 40 have missed out on funding previously promised to them, sparking concern among heads that they will now be unable to compete with the rest.

Sir Steve, who grew up in Buckinghamshire, said good schooling was vital in the preparation of the Olympic stars of the future. "It's very important, especially when you reach secondary level and up to university," he said.

"That's when children discover their sporting talents and you can see who is at the top end in terms of ability.

"But there's got to be a balance. If a pupil is good at football, for example, then he shouldn't be taken out of school to concentrate on that one thing because very few people reach that top level and they've got to have something to fall back on.

"When I spoke to the kids this week I told them how I should have approached my studies the same way I approached my rowing, because my results were poor at school and my life could have turned out a lot different if I hadn't made it as an athlete."

Sir Steve won his first gold medal in the coxed fours event at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and followed it up with success at the next four Olympics: in Seoul, Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney.

He was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year after his retirement in 2000, before receiving a knighthood a year later.

Sir Steve was also part of London's successful bid to host the 2012 Olympics. He said: "One of the reasons we won was because we already had big plans for the legacy of the Games, including the use of the facilities for at least the next 25 years.

"But what I really want to see is a model of sport for all, and not just at the top end for the elite athletes. I want a legacy that will touch as many people's lives as possible, and schemes like the Kent School Games will help to achieve that."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

To view, search 'bracelet' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Archaeologist Simon Mason explains how he discovered a stunning pair of Bronze Age gold bracelets on Kent's big road dig

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MP's compensation rebel threat

A TORY MP has threatened to rebel against the coalition Government unless ministers ensure a fair compensation package for Equitable Life policyholders.

Gordon Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said the Labour government dragged its feet on the issue and the coalition must make sure justice is served.

During the election the Tories and the Lib Dems promised to pay compensation to policy holders including dependants within the scheme. But since then there has been speculation the Treasury could limit the compensation to 10 per cent of individual losses.

"The new coalition Government has acted quickly to set the compensation wheels in motion, however, I fear that bean counters at the Treasury will try to deny policyholders the justice they deserve, which is why I took the opportunity of the current debate to fire a shot across the Government's bows.

"I made a promise to the Equitable Life policyholders in my constituency and I intend to stick by that promise."

All reviews are unedited (corrected for spelling errors) and provide a fair representation of comments received. Do drop in to view the originals.

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Mr S.W. - August
Never been to a restaurant like it!! Absolutely fantastic food2 and atmosphere. Staff awesome and very knowledgable. Will definitely recommend.

Mrs B.S. - September
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Mr T.T. - September
First time at Vari, pulling into the car park was very impressed with the overall restaurant from there it only got better, the staff were friendly and polite, also very helpful! The was food was fantastic and reasonably priced. Overall an excellent dining experience. We will definitely return and recommend.

Mr D.B. - September
It was the loveliest Indian meal we have ever had. Friendly service, friendly staff. We will definitely come here again and will recommend to all our friends. Thank you very much

Mrs C.B. - September
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Mr S.C. - September
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Mr G.C. - September
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Mrs T.H. - September
We thought the food was amazing. Compliments to the chef and the waitresses were pleasant and welcoming. Thanks.

Mrs V. A. - September
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Birthplace of WWI poet is named Kent's finest village

FAMOUS SON: Sassoon won Military Cross

THE birthplace of the late World War One poet Siegfried Sassoon has been named Kent Village of the Year, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Matfield – part of the civil parish of Brenchley, Tunbridge Wells – scooped top prize at Wednesday night's awards ceremony, hosted by Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

It also won the economy award for its new pub-run village shop, and finished runner-up in the three remaining categories of transport, environment and social and community.

Military Cross winner Sassoon, who died in 1967, grew up in Matfield and made his name as a writer of satirical anti-World War One verse.

A tree donated by his mother to mark the end of the conflict still stands in the village green, despite having to be replanted following the great storm of 1987.

"We're very proud of our association with Sassoon and are absolutely delighted to have been named Kent Village of the Year," said parish councillor Christine Cornford.

"We worked hard on our entry and the community was supportive of what we were trying to achieve.

"In the end I nominated 40 different businesses and organisations. It was only when I arrived at the ceremony that I was told most villages only put forward about five or six."

WINNER: Matfield scooped the top prize

Matfield won the Village of the Year prize for its overall performance in all four categories.

Lenham – halfway between Maidstone and Ashford – won the transport category while Kilndown, near Cranbrook, picked up the social and community prize.

Community

East Farleigh in Maidstone won the environment award, with the special judge's prize going to Coldred, near Dover.

The economy prize was awarded to Matfield due to the success of the new Inn Store, run by the landlords of the Star pub, Kay and Graham Vamplew.

Mrs Cornford revealed the parish council had been looking to establish a community shop since the village post office closed last autumn.

"We were well aware there are a lot of people who don't have the transport to get to Paddock Wood or Tunbridge Wells," she added.

"But thanks to the Star we have got back a vital part of the community. It's vital we all try to maintain our villages and continue to provide the facilities that are required."

Meanwhile, a number of Kent locations celebrated success in the South East in Bloom gardening competition this week.

Among them were Shorne Woods County Park, Gravesend, which was the overall winner in the county parks category, and Herne Bay, winner of the large coastal town category.

HGVs review won't end lorries on rural roads

TRAFFIC chaos caused by lorries rumbling through narrow country lanes is being tackled as part of a new roads strategy.

Kent Highway Services plans to rewrite the county's lorry route map as well as carry out a review of all size restrictions and road signs as part of an action programme expected to take between 12-18 months to complete.

The authority also plans to work with satellite navigation firms to ensure their devices are not sending HGVs into trouble.

Cllr Nick Chard, cabinet member for highways at Kent County Council, said: "Lorries can cause tremendous problems for residents and businesses when they use the wrong road and get stuck. They also rumble through our villages day in, day out, in some cases causing damage to property.

"Of course, businesses have to use our roads as part of their normal operations, but at the moment we do not have a full picture of the best routes for them.

"What we want to do is put lorries on the best available routes."

Last year nearly 3.2 million freight lorries passed through the Channel Tunnel and the ports of Dover and Ramsgate – an average of 8,700 a day.

KCC hopes its action plan will help avoid a repeat of the August, 2007, incident in Mereworth, near Maidstone, where a Slovenian lorry driver got his vehicle stuck on a narrow bend after obeying his satnav's instructions to drive through the tiny village.

The Road Haulage Association and the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association (FTA) are both being consulted on the review.

"This action plan won't mean lorries will be eliminated from all rural roads because they still need to access businesses and residential properties not located on the best routes," said Natalie Chapman, the FTA's head of policy for Kent.

"We also don't want to add lots more miles to drivers' journeys just for the sake of it, because that would mean higher costs for freight companies and more carbon emissions that will damage the environment."

Mrs Chapman added that while lorry-specific satnavs were now on the market, drivers should still always plan their journeys in advance.

"They're just an addition for drivers and shouldn't be used as the prime routing tool," she said.

Meanwhile, Kent Highways is tackling specific lorry-related issues, such as restricting lorry traffic through Sevenoaks High Street.

Cllr Chard added: "The work we are carrying out will mean we are well prepared in advance to tackle the demands this growth will place on our county."

Fight for lost cash

KENT County Council has launched a court challenge to claw back some of its £50 million frozen in Icelandic banks.

Last year the authority was hit with the news that administrators for one of the banks – Glitnir – were no longer regarding local councils as preferential creditors.

KCC had been expecting to recoup all of the £15m, but may now receive only a percentage of that figure while other creditors deemed a higher priority are paid first.

Medic sex abuser

A HOSPITAL technician who sexually abused a string of women as they came round after surgery has been jailed for five years.

David Foster, 56, pleaded guilty to attacks on four women at three hospitals outside the county, but there are fears further victims were assaulted while he worked in Kent.

One of the attacks was carried out while the patient was undergoing an operation.

To watch clip this search 'Hood'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks meets Paul Hendy, the man in charge of this year's Marlowe Theatre panto, Robin Hood

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JON COATES

Raise a mug to job satisfaction

A SPUR of the moment decision helped Grant Chapman land the job of his dreams – even though it was in a direction he had never considered.

The county's fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support says after trying numerous professions he now knows what it is like to enjoy work.

He even spends most of his holidays looking forward to going back to his role at the charity, which is a sure sign of job satisfaction. But the role is something that came out of the blue after a snap decision to hand his CV to a recruitment agency.

Mr Chapman, 33, from Chatham, had been a chef and worked front-of-house in restaurants, been a postman and trainer for the Royal Mail, and then sold toilet rolls, pizza concepts, and franking machines, but had not found job satisfaction in any of these positions.

He said: "I went to sell an agency a franking machine. They said 'no' and I was halfway down the stairs to leave their office when I realised I had a CV on me. I went back and said I was not happy in the job I was doing and could I give them my CV.

"They gave me a call a couple of months later and told me they had a charity job with Macmillan.

"I said, 'That's all very well, but I need to be paid', and they told me I could get paid for working for a charity, which I had never considered before."

After overcoming his initial reservations, Mr Chapman jumped at the chance as it was a charity close to his heart.

He said: "I was aware of the charity as my nan had a Macmillan nurse, and my mum's best friend had one, too. I felt it fitted perfectly and I have never looked back.

"Both my nan and my mum's friend died, unfortunately, but they could not have gone through what they did without the support of a Macmillan nurse."

Mr Chapman started working for the charity five years ago and has had stints as a community fundraiser in Kent, a fundraising manager in London and corporate fundraising manager in the City, before returning to his home county 18 months ago as the fundraising manager for Kent and Surrey. He said: "It makes a difference if you live in the area where you work. As I live in Kent, I want to make a difference there.

"When I went to work in my former jobs I used to think, 'What would it be like to enjoy your job?' Now I go away on holiday and spend the whole time looking forward to coming back to work.

"Macmillan is a fantastic organisation, as they are there from the moment of diagnosis when people are uncertain, worried and unclear what will happen.

"They are there to support people and help them live with cancer. It is about making the most of every moment and I have met so many wonderful people through this."

While it has become more difficult to raise funds for the charity during the recession, he believes the fact that the charity resonates with everyone – as we all know someone affected by cancer – has helped.

Dedicated

And he praises his dedicated team who raised more money last year than in the previous year and are on target to better that in 2010. The charity's major fundraising event, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, officially takes place on Friday.

But people can hold their own events whenever it suits them, which could see individuals inviting a few friends around for a coffee and cake, schools baking cakes and selling them to parents, pubs holding drinks evenings in aid of the charity, or garden centres or restaurants holding big public coffee mornings.

Mr Chapman said: "It is Macmillan's flagship fundraising event and unique in just raising money for one charity on one official day.

"This year is its 20th anniversary, which shows its longevity after being started by a committee in Kent.

"We set a target of 1,200 registered hosts and raising £215,000 in Kent this year and are on schedule, but we still want as many as possible to sign up and take part."

Register at www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 602 1246 to get involved.

GRANT CHAPMAN: "I have met many wonderful people in my work"

Dartford crossing booths killed off, but tolls to stay

VICTORY has finally been declared at the controversial Dartford crossing as its congestion and pollution-generating toll booths look set to be scrapped, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Local MP Gareth Johnson says he has "secured the death knell" for the booths, but admits motorists will still be charged to cross the River Thames through the use of new technology such as automatic number plate recognition (ANPR).

The Conservative member also presented a petition to the House of Commons this week calling for the crossing – described as "a scar on the face of Dartford" – not to be sold or privatised.

He said: "The Treasury, in these dire economic times, are unlikely to give up the £42 million revenue raised from the tolls each year, but they are at least listening to a commonsense approach to ending the congestion.

"These new systems may take some time to implement, so in the meantime it is vital we see more occasions when the tolls are suspended to ease congestion.

"People frequently raise the issue of the crossing with me and when they do they generally have three complaints: firstly the congestion, secondly the pollution, and thirdly the cost.

"Although these changes would not deal with the cost, they would remove the first two concerns."

The Dartford crossing has been a contentious issue in Kent for many years, fuelled by a decision to keep the toll charges even after the cost of the Queen Elizabeth II bridge – opened in 1991 – was met 12 years later.

CASH COW: The crossing was paid for in 2003

Opposition to the levy intensified in 2008, when increased costs were introduced at certain times of the day.

Technology

Last June KOS Media revealed the Department for Transport was considering the use of 'electronic tolling' to charge drivers who use the crossing.

The technology, which was pioneered in Australia, uses motorway sensors to detect pre-paid tags attached to the inside of drivers' windscreens.

However, Mr Johnson said that following discussions with transport secretary Philip Hammond and roads minister Mike Penning, it appeared that ANPR – currently used by Kent Police to flag up law-breaking motorists – was the preferred method.

"I have not achieved all that I am aiming for," he said. "I still want the tolls to be scrapped.

"Yet I have secured the death knell for the toll booths and an acceptance by Government that the status quo for the Dartford crossing is not an option. I yearn for the day the crossing is a positive thing for Dartford and not the nemesis it has become."

The campaign to remove the toll booths received a welcome boost in July last year when a major power cut meant they could not be used, allowing traffic to run more smoothly than ever before.

The barriers were also lifted last month when a lorry fire on the Queen Elizabeth II bridge caused a massive build-up of traffic.

Roads minister Mr Penning confirmed that reducing congestion at the crossing was an "absolute priority".

He added: "Our preferred option is the use of newer technology to allow free-flow charging, and we have asked the Highways Agency to work up proposals as a matter of urgency.

"However, we are also willing to consider the possibility of lifting the barriers when congestion is particularly severe.

"Any solution will need to take account of the potential benefits and impacts, and the need to maintain the safe operation of the crossing for the millions of its users."

Medway march for Orangemen

UP to 1,000 hard-line Protestants are expected to march through Medway next Saturday at the culmination of a two-day rally.

The Orange Order's Grand Lodge sessions and parade will see Orangemen from across Kent and the South East converge on the towns.

Members will meet at the Franklin Rooms, in Franklin Road, Gillingham on Friday.

A rally and a commemorative service will take place at the Naval War Memorial on the Great Lines the following day before the processions marches through town.

More than a dozen key roads along the Orangemen's route will be closed between 3pm and 4.30pm.

Politically, the Orange Order has strong links to unionism, leading to ugly clashes with Catholic nationalists in Northern Ireland, especially during The Troubles.

However, police have played down the possibility of any riots in Medway.

A spokesman said: "The event has been organised in consultation with Kent Police in Medway and Medway Council in the hope that disruption to the area will be kept to a minimum. There is nothing to suggest that there will be any sort of disorder during the event.

"Roads will be closed for only as long as it takes for the parade to pass through the area. Kent police in Medway would advise that where possible, people avoid travelling in the area and those that do should expect to encounter some delays."

The Medway road closures include; Marlborough Road, Brompton Road, Prince Arthur Road, Medway Road, Richmond Road, Saunders Street, Victoria Street, Balmoral Road, Duncan Road, Nelson Road, Stopford Road, Canterbury Street and Pagit Street.

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Middle-aged lovers getting more sex diseases after marriages hit the rocks

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

SEX diseases are increasingly common among middle-aged people as a result of the growing number of marriage break ups.

While sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are most commonly found in the 16 to 24-year-old age group, new figures have revealed the number of older people contracting diseases is growing steadily.

Nationally in 2009, 13,000 men and women aged over 45 were treated for STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea and genital warts – double the amount seen in 2000.

And last year in the UK, there were more men aged over 45 with herpes than 16 to 19-year-old males, a finding reflected in NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent figures.

The growing problem has prompted sexual health charity the Family Planning Association to launch a campaign – the Middle Age Spread – using 1970s posters to highlight the poor sexual health of older people.

In NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent in 2008-09, the number of patients aged from 35 to 64 years old treated for STIs increased.

Although the rise was small – 15 more cases to 114 for over-45s; and five up to 197 for 35 to 44-year-olds – in the younger age groups there was a significant drop in cases, with the exception of chlamydia which rose by almost 100 per cent.

Gerald Bassett, lead commissioner for sexual health at the trust, said if people of any age have a new or casual sexual partner, using a condom is the surest way to avoid an STI.

"Any rise, however small, in STIs can present a problem to the population as a whole and is therefore something we take extremely seriously," he said. "We would urge anyone who is embarking on a new relationship – whatever their age – to ensure they practise safe sex and if they are at all worried, speak to a GP or pharmacist who can give advice on screening for common infections."

Dr Lesley Navaratne, consultant in Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and HIV at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said the clinic was seeing more over-40s with STIs. Rates of herpes increased this year by more than 50 per cent since 2009, with 20 per cent of new diagnoses in the over-40s.

Dr Navaratne said: "Often when long-term relationships, including marriage, fail and people embark on different relationships, STIs may begin to affect older age groups.

"This could be because men and women in this age group may mistakenly think sexual health issues will not affect them, as the focus on STI prevention is on young people.

"Also, women in this age group may not need to use condoms as they are using longer term methods of contraception or have been through the menopause and are not concerned about the risk of pregnancy."

A breakdown of STI figures in relation to age groups was not available for the whole of the NHS West Kent area, but the trust said people of all ages needed to be aware of the risks.

Faiza Khan, consultant in public health, said: "Safe sex isn't just for younger people. STIs affect all ages and a condom is the best way of protecting yourself and your partner.

"It is so important for anyone who is sexually active to have a sexual health check whenever they change partner."

Last year in the UK more than 5,000 men and women over 45 were diagnosed with genital warts, and chlamydia diagnosis in women has gone up 95 per cent in nine years. Calls to the Family Planning Association have risen 30 per cent in three years.

Julie Bentley, chief executive of the charity, said: "There is little sexual health information and services for the over-50s and current campaigns, however good, are exclusively for the young.

"We need to do more to encourage the over-50s to access sexual health clinics."

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Club excited by X Factor gigs

ONE by one, as the X Factor singing finalists get voted off the hit telvision show, they will appear live on stage in Kent the following week.

A spokesman for Liquid nightclub in Maidstone confirmed it had secured a deal to bring the cream of this year's hopefuls to the county town for live performances.

Before an overall winner is decided on the ITV talent show, contestants are gradually voted off – many of whom go on to achieve fame in their own right. Liquid will now bring the stars of the show to Kent.

Every Saturday night the finals will be broadcast live from London and when the public have voted on who is to leave the show, that act will perform exclusively at Liquid in Maidstone the following Friday.

The spokesman added: "We await with great excitement to see who will perform in the final showdown – and which judges will send which finalists home."

The Directors Of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust cordially invite you to its Annual General Meeting and Best Practice event

The Kent County Cricket Club, St. Lawrence Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3NZ on Thursday 30 September 2010

1.30pm-4.30pm for Best Practice event
4.30pm prompt start for Annual General Meeting

New Saga chief to fight for over-50s

DR ROS ALTMANN

PENSIONS expert Dr Ros Altmann has been appointed Saga's director-general.

As the Sandgate company's chief spokeswoman, Dr Altmann will attempt to push the concerns and interests of the 21 million people aged over 50 in Britain onto the agendas of politicians, decision-makers, and the media. Saga specialises in goods and services for older people.

Dr Altmann said: "I want to help people understand that later years don't mean you are 'over the hill'. I will focus on issues such as helping people plan for retirement, overcoming workplace age discrimination, pension reform, and long-term care funding.

"My message will be: Don't neglect people aged over 50. They are the decent, silent majority who have helped make Britain great. They've got on with life, saved responsibly and expect to look after themselves. Society must not take advantage of them."

NEW figures released by the RSPB reveal more than 380 cases of crimes against birds of prey in the UK 2009.

It was the second highest number in the last decade with 384 reported incidents of shootings, trappings or poisonings – only 2007 was worse with 389 cases.

Kent was the second worse county for wild bird crime in the South East, according to the RSPB's Birdcrime 2009 report.

Sophie McCallum, from the wildlife charity, said: "Although the South East has a relatively low incident rate, any wildlife crime is unacceptable."

Crackdown on bogus charity 'vultures' call taken to Parliament

BOGUS charity collectors accused of abusing the goodwill of people who donate clothes have been condemned by a Kent MP, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Chatham and Aylesford Conservative Tracey Crouch is calling for a parliamentary debate on the issue and has also tabled an Early Day Motion calling for police to clamp down on fraudulent activity.

Her demand for action follows a BBC investigation that revealed Lithuanian conmen claiming to work for Breakthrough Breast Cancer had been delivering clothes sacks to homes in north Kent. Donated articles were then sold abroad for a profit.

"I think it's disgusting," said Phil Wilson, chairman of the charity's mid-Kent fundraising group.

"They're just vultures who prey on the vulnerable. Quite a few of those who donate clothes are elderly people who want to do their bit because they can't do a marathon or 100-mile bike ride.

"Financially, this activity doesn't damage us because we don't do clothes collections, but what it does do is knock the confidence of our supporters because our name has been linked with it.

"But it's not just about us because there are lots of other charities who don't have high street branches and depend a great deal on these collections."

The Early Day Motion tabled by Ms Crouch last week has received 19 signatures so far.

Her campaign for a clampdown was also commended by the Leader of the House, Sir George Young, after her appeal for a Parliamentary debate.

The rookie MP, who won the Chatham and Aylesford seat from Labour's former minister for the South East Jonathan Shaw, must now wait to see if the backbench business committee will allocate time for the discussion. "I've written to the Home Secretary, the police and trading standards asking for some co-ordinated action on this," Ms Crouch told KOS Media. "We need to make sure it is taken seriously.

"Bogus charity collecting seems like such a small crime, but actually it causes a great deal of damage to charities, which should receive £100 per tonne of donated clothes but instead aren't getting a penny.

"It should be quite easy to catch who is responsible because the sacks state when a collection will be taking place. They also have mobile phone numbers on them and that never happens with legitimate charities. Had the mid-Kent co-ordinator not received one of these sacks through his door I doubt anyone would have realised what was going on."

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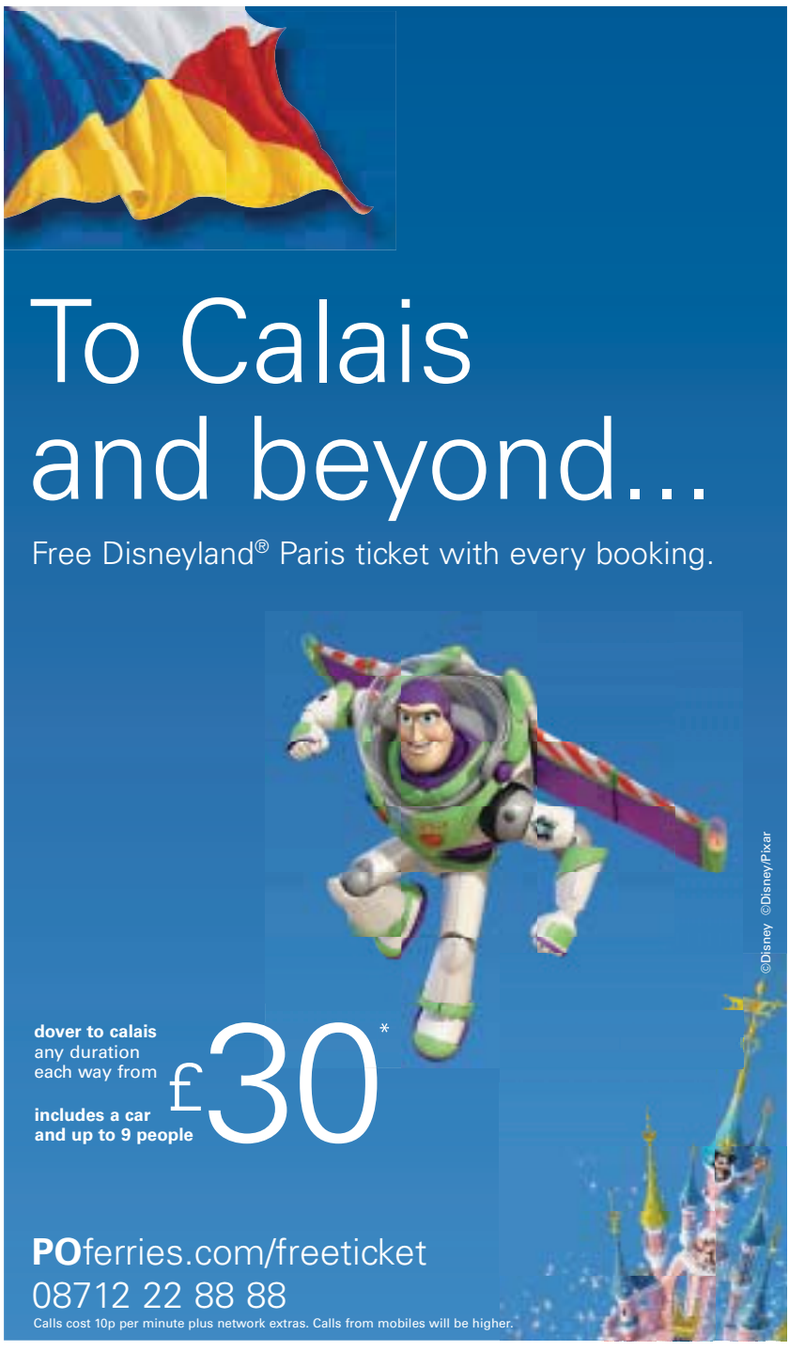

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Fairer deal can make the world of difference

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FARMERS toiling the fields of some of the world's poorest nations are feeling the benefits of ethical vending machines designed and sold in Kent.

Ubuntu Cola – made with sugar grown in Malawi and Zambia – is among the products offered by Medway-based Fairtrade Vending, which is the only company in its industry to have full backing from the Fairtrade Foundation.

Medway Maritime Hospital and the University of Kent at Canterbury are just two of the locations to have taken delivery of one of the firm's machines, the contents of which are purchased with the welfare of Third World farmers firmly in mind.

"The British public is known for having a conscience and we are a nation of people who support charity," said managing director Mike Steel.

"That's probably why the Fairtrade movement has grown so large in the UK and across the world, and it's something we are obviously passionate about as a company.

"Considering it's a fairly new initiative, the fact Fairtrade tea and coffee controls about 20-25 per cent of the workplace market now is staggering. All the major supermarkets stock it now, too, so there's quite a lot of support. People understand it isn't enough to write off the debt owed by Third World countries. We need to support producers to help them become self-sufficient.

"All Fairtrade products come from ethical producers and the money goes directly to those in an ethical production line."

The purpose of the Fairtrade initiative is to create opportunities for producers and workers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalised by the conventional trading system. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices which must never fall lower than the market price, it ensures the poorest, weakest producers are not discriminated against.

Based at the Medway City Estate in Rochester, Fairtrade Vending is a division of Eagle Vending Services.

"We've been around for 15 years but are one of the pioneers on the Fairtrade side of things," said Mr Steel. "We were the first to bring Fairtrade vending machines onto the market, and we've been supplying them for about six years now.

"We're also members of the Medway Fairtrade steering group."

Mr Steel estimates that if just 10 per cent of businesses and organisations in Kent installed Fairtrade vending machines for staff and customers, it would increase the money going to the initiative by more than £80,000 per year.

He also dismissed claims the products available were too expensive, adding: "It's pretty much on a par with the other leading brands. Unfortunately some firms do tend to oversell and that's something we would strongly discourage."

• ***Visit www.fairtradevending.co.uk for more information.***

CHEERS: Fairtrade tea and coffee has a quarter of the workplace vending market

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Coin conversion will cost firms a small fortune

VENDING machine firms have spoken out against Government plans to produce new 5p and 10p coins using a cheaper metal.

Experts say the proposals will cost the industry £42 million as company bosses will have to pay to change the settings on every one of the machines they lease.

Vending machines have to be able to check each coin's shape, weight and magnetism to prevent fakes being used, and will need to be recalibrated to accept both the new and old varieties.

"It's a logistical nightmare," said Matthew Schmidt, managing director of Rochester-based Vending Services."It's going to cost us about £60-£70 a unit. That's £10,000-12,000 we're going to have to pay out and you don't get any help to cover that.

Struggle

"Some companies might struggle to survive, especially those already close to going under because of the recession.

"But I don't think the Government will take one bit of notice. They never have in the past."

Under the proposed changes the new coins would be made from steel instead of cupronickel – an alloy of copper and steel – due to the rising price of copper and the high cost of the alloy-making process.

The Royal Mint could save as much as £8m a year as a result.

A spokesman for the Treasury said: "The proposal to make new 5p and 10p coins out of nickel-plated steel rather than an alloy is one of many measures being considered by the Government with a view to reducing the fiscal deficit."

Advertisement feature

Problem Solved

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DAMP is a creeping menace that affects thousands of homes across Kent.

During the summer months these problems may have been less obvious, but the damp is still there. Treating your property for damp now is the best way to make sure that your home is prepared and protected in time for the fast approaching winter.

It is important to tackle the problem at this time, because ignoring damp can store up serious problems and also pose potential health risks – especially if you have a medical condition such as asthma or rheumatism.

For years, people have tried to solve damp problems, applying waterproof coatings or injecting walls with chemical solutions.

This can involve contractors coming into your home and drilling into brickwork to pump chemicals into the walls – hacking off and replacing plaster inside.

By KATIE HOLDEN

The work can be messy, intrusive and your home will need redecorating once it's been done.

And, despite all this upheaval, there's no guarantee that it will work in the long term. Chemical barriers tend to break down over time, and once this happens – that damp will be back.

Holland Damp Proofing is a breath of fresh air that can permanently rid your home of the scourge of damp.

The idea is simple: draw out the moisture and the damp will disappear! The Holland Damp Proof System® involves a series of small damp-regulating bricks which neatly fit into specially prepared niches in the external walls of your home, close to the ground.

EXPERT OPINION: Evert de Graaf with one of the damp-regulating bricks that have already been installed in thousands of UK homes.

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'Holland ended our nightmare'

THUMBS UP: Mr Forino

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Wind farm launch ties in with 10 per cent milestone

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE world's largest offshore wind farm is set to open off the Kent coast just weeks after fresh data revealed wind energy production had reached new heights.

Energy secretary Chris Huhne will unveil the 100 turbines, which sit 12km off Foreness Point near Ramsgate, on Thursday alongside Øystein Løseth, president of Vattenfall, the Swedish power company behind the development.

It will be a landmark moment for the renewable energy industry, and two weeks ago the latest statistics from the National Grid revealed around 10 per cent of electricity was generated by UK wind farms.

The Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, made up of 100 Vestas V90 turbines reaching 115 metres at their highest point, will have a total capacity of 300 megawatts, generating enough electricity to supply heat and light to more than 200,000 homes.

A Vattenfall spokesman said: "This is a significant investment in renewable wind energy."

Vattenfall began work on the £800 million development in 2008 and the last turbine was installed in June this year.

David Hodkinson, director and head of development at the company, said it was a milestone moment and thanked Thanet District Council, Thanet College, and the district's residents for their support.

Cost effective

He added: "The experience gained on Thanet is contributing to our drive to make our future offshore wind projects safer and more cost effective to install and operate, both of which are needed to establish the sector as a major source of low carbon electricity and jobs."

The wind farm, located in water depths of 20-25m and covering an area of 35 sq km, will boost UK offshore wind capacity by more than 30 per cent.

Its upcoming unveiling follows the announcement by Renewable UK, the professional body for wind energy, that the production of electricity from wind had reached a historical record at the beginning of the month. Data from the National Grid showed around 10 per cent of electricity delivered to consumers was generated by the farms.

POWER: There are now 100 wind turbines 12km off the Thanet coast at Foreness Point

Maria McCaffery, chief executive of Renewable UK, said: "We are expecting to see the contribution of electricity from wind gradually increase over the next decade to around 30 per cent.

"These figures underpin the strong contention that renewable energy – and wind energy in particular – is no longer alternative. It is on the scale and growing rapidly."

She continued: "If we added together all the wind energy projects in planning to the projects already existing and about to come on stream, we would be three-quarters of the way to reaching our 2020 targets.

"If we count in the potential of offshore wind, the plan of turning the UK into a net energy exporter does not seem unlikely."

Mr Huhne and other dignitaries will sail from the Port of Ramsgate to the wind farm for the unveiling.

Archbishop makes asylum plea

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has weighed into the debate surrounding the indeterminate confinement of illegal immigrants.

Dr Rowan Williams, who is patron of the Dover Detainee Visitor Group (DDVG), visited the immigrant removal centre in the port town to highlight the plight of the 300 male refugees held there.

Campaigners have fought the indeterminate detention of detainees since the centre opened in 2002.

Dr Williams took time out of his busy schedule ahead of the Pope's visit to the UK to meet with the DDVG.

He told the BBC: "They're almost seen as non-persons – people forget about them.

"They have no clear legal status and what they need is relationship building. They need people to take them seriously – they need to know they are valued by somebody."

Rowan Williams

DDVG director Vebi Kosumi said there needed to be a time limit on how long detainees could be held.

Currently, they can be held for as long as it takes to decide upon their future, whether it is returning them back to their home country or sending them to relatives in the UK who can support them financially.

Mr Kosumi said: "We would like to see the Government not only to put an end to child detention, but also to give adult detainees a time limit for how long they can be held for."

Mr Kosumi said asylum seekers should also be given the right to work after six months of being in the UK.

"Once they are out of detention they can't work, so what are they supposed to do?" he said.

The DDVG was set up to provide support to detainees and their families, and offers weekly visits to the refugees held in Dover.

A UK Border Agency spokesman said detention was the last resort, but when someone who has no right to remain in the UK refuses to leave voluntarily detention helps enforce removal.

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Marlowe in motion

County's empty town centres are determined to rise from the ashes

ONE was the hometown of Rolling Stones' frontman Mick Jagger, the other a buzzing seaside resort attracting thousands of visitors during its 60s heyday.

But some 50 years later two of the county's once-thriving towns stand almost empty as they try and recover from the worst recession in decades.

In Jagger's former hometown of Dartford, figures show 10 per cent more shops are vacant than in January – now 20.51 per cent – and in Margate the number has risen again, bringing the total up 0.48 per cent to 27.55 per cent.

Although just a small rise, the Thanet town sits at number three in the list of those with the most vacant shops in the whole of Britain behind Blackpool and Altrincham – down two places since February when it was the country's official ghost town.

Neighbouring Cliftonville also showed a rise, with 3.82 per cent more shops standing empty since the last count six months ago, bringing it up to 20.64 per cent.

But despite the dismal figures released by the Local Data Company, those behind the regeneration of the towns remain positive.

Derek Harding, from the Margate Renewal Partnership, said things were on the up with the opening of the £17.4 million Turner art gallery next year and the creation of a vintage theme park at the Dreamland site in 2012.

"Margate has seen a reduction of visitors over the years which is one of the things that has led to the vacancies," he said. "We're trying to change that with the Turner Contemporary and other major projects to increase visitor numbers and bring different kinds of people in – who will spend more money in the shops and restaurants so we have more money in the town.

BOARDED UP: Margate's town centre

"It's not about pushing the locals out we just need to create a balance to meet the needs of visitors and the community."

Most high street chains, which the town relies on to draw in crowds, have relocated to Westwood Cross shopping centre, just outside Broadstairs, but Mr Harding said Margate's old town was filling up with 70 to 80 per cent of properties now in use.

He added: "Many of the shops in Margate that are counted as empty are in fact part of the regeneration and have been bought by investment companies.

"It means there are a lot of properties not being let because of the development plans."

Dartford, which was placed 21st in the list of 50 'empty' towns, one below Cliftonville, also has regeneration plans, including a £94m revamp and a 4,097 capacity football stadium.

The borough council admitted that since shopping had changed over the years, the town had struggled to find an "identity".

"Major retailers have told us that existing shop units do not meet their needs and local shops face unprecedented competition," said a spokesman. "The town's new leaders are determined to restore Dartford's place as one of the region's finest shopping and social centres."

Council leaders believe the future of the town depends on balancing a mix of shops.

"It means encouraging new retailers, winning back the shops that have departed and supporting our existing traders."

Terror alert DJ jailed after blast

A PIRATE radio DJ has been jailed for 150 days after breaking two broadcasting laws.

James Cooper, of Sundridge Drive, Chatham, was arrested in July last year after suspicious items, including a laptop and a transmitter, were found on top of a water tower at Blue Bell Hill.

The 28-year-old went before Medway Magistrates Court on Monday where he pleaded guilty to offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

The court heard that Cooper's electrical equipment was spotted by South East Water officials on Saturday, July 4, 2009.

Fearing a potential terror risk, officers brought in an army bomb disposal unit and a controlled explosion was carried out.

Cooper arrived at the scene and told officers that he had information about the equipment.

Evidence showed he was a significant part of the pirate radio operation and he later admitted the equipment was web-streaming his pirate radio station and broadcasting drum and bass.

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We won't be cloned

Thriving High Street is a complete one-off

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

AS BRITAIN becomes a nation of clone towns suffocated by chain stores, one gem continues to shine as a champion of the independent retailer.

And anyone trying to change that will have a fight on their hands, as Whitstable's residents and businesses are opposed to becoming a modern-day high street.

A study by think-tank the New Economics Foundation found the seaside resort is top of the list in terms of diversity, with none of the 'sameness' associated with most town centres.

Findings showed 41 per cent of UK towns surveyed were clones of each other – where more than half the stores were chains – and 23 per cent were on the verge of becoming clones.

Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells were all placed in the clone town category, with shopping almost identical in each of the three.

But Whitstable was one of the 36 per cent to have more than a third of its shops independent, snubbing the commonplace shopping experience seen elsewhere.

Chris West, town centre manager, said opting for this kind of business instead of the run-of-the-mill chain store was the strength of Whitstable.

"We still have retailers such as butchers and bakers along with unique shops and that's what's keeping people here," he said. "People are fed-up with clone-like towns..

DIVERSITY: The mix of independent shops found in Whistable is key

"There's a real sense of ownership by the community and businesses. They are very intent on keeping Whitstable as it is and they don't want lots of big chain stores.

"We're proud of this town. People travel 150 miles to come here just for the day or when there are events on like the Oyster Festival.

"Some say they don't even know why they come here, they just like it so much."

Vulnerable

Unlike Margate and Dartford, which have seen a rise in the number of vacant properties in the past six months, there are only three empty shops in Whitstable.

Mr West added: "People are ringing every week asking about premises."

Paul Squires, co-author of the clone town report, said those areas most dependant on the big chains and out-of-town stores have been the most vulnerable to the economic crisis.

"The government's Big Society idea cannot be built on these fractured local economies, represented so clearly by the empty shop fronts along our high streets," he said.

But Mr Squires added that many towns, including Whitstable, are buzzing with initiatives and diversity.

Elizabeth Cox, co-author of the report, added: "We need to completely re-evaluate what we use our high streets for now that the age of mass retail is juddering to a halt.

"Our high streets could become places where shopping is just one small part of a rich mix of activities including working, sharing, exchanging, playing and learning new skills.

"As the hub of our communities, the high street could become the place where we begin to build a more sustainable world."

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Chris Atkinson, chief scientist at East Malling Research (EMR) – the internationally-renowned fruit and plant experts – said: "Winter chill, periods when the temperature stays a few degrees above freezing, but below 7C, is essential for the development and promotion of high yields for many woody crops."

Stamp of rejection

THE KENT Green Party has slammed the coalition Government's plans to privatise Royal Mail.

It comes after news that proposals to modernise the postal services in Kent could see 400 job cuts and the closure of four sorting offices in Tonbridge, Canterbury, Maidstone and Dartford.

Stuart Jeffery, campaigns officer for the party, said: "Kent Greens want to see the Royal Mail stay in public hands and receive investment to reopen the 56 post offices that were closed across Kent."

Turning Japanese

DEMELZA children's hospice in Sittingbourne went global last week with a slot on Japanese TV.

A film crew from TV Tokyo spent a day exploring the centre ahead of the opening of the first children's hospice in Japan, this year.

The piece featured interviews with Wendy Faulknall, director of care and the Mahon family, whose daughter Jessica suffers from cerebral palsy, epilepsy and dystonia.

Maria Bosco, from TV Tokyo, said: "We hope that through our report, the new children's hospices in Japan will be able to see the expert levels of care given at Demelza."

Arsonists behind half of all fires, say brigade

School holiday time rife for mindless acts

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

ARSONISTS and fly-tippers could end up with blood on their hands as they divert the emergency services away from life-saving work.

New figures from Kent Fire and Rescue Service revealed that from September 1 last year, to the end of August this year, there were 1,784 deliberate rubbish, car and grassland fires in the county.

The problem was highlighted in Sittingbourne. The station manager found they were still dealing with as many arson attacks as they were accidental blazes.

In the past year, half of all the fire calls attended by crews in their area were started deliberately, and they tended to be in school holiday time.

The number of attacks in Sittingbourne was down on the previous year, but combined with the countywide figure, a further reduction would help avoid stretching the fire service and possibly putting lives at risk.

Sittingbourne station manager Gary Stanford said: "These sorts of fires can easily spread and cause widespread damage, possibly even injure or kill someone.

"They also have the potential to divert our crews from genuine emergencies such as house fires or car crashes, so it's a waste of valuable resources.

"We need people to know that fly-tipping and arson are both illegal and are treated seriously by the courts and we urge residents to help us as we continue to work with our partners in challenging this sort of antisocial behaviour."

Over the past year, firefighters have been working closely with Kent Police and Swale Borough Council by monitoring and reporting incidents of fly-tipping, as this can often lead to a deliberate fire.

And Alister Andrews, environmental response manager for Swale Borough Council, added: "Any person, or company who fly-tip their waste are committing an offence.

"The effects of these actions, at a minimum cause a considerable clean-up cost to tax payers. But if this waste is then set alight, the consequences can be much more severe.

"If you use a third party to dispose of your waste you must check they are registered to do so, and that they leave you with a 'duty of care' transfer note detailing who they are, what the waste was, and where they are taking it.

Failure to comply with this may result in enforcement action. There is no acceptable excuse to fly-tip waste."

Arson attacks that put people in danger can carry a life sentences if found guilty.

IN DANGER: Arson can carry a life sentence

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Troops must stay and fight

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

BRITISH troops should remain in Afghanistan until the job they have been given is complete, says a former high-ranking Army officer.

Beckenham Tory MP Bob Stewart was a United Nations commander during the Bosnian War of the early 1990s, and told Parliament that soldiers involved in the current conflict need to be protected from planned government spending cuts.

Mr Stewart was one of 310 MPs who voted in favour of a motion supporting the continued deployment of UK armed forces in Afghanistan, with just 14 voting against.

He said: "There is now great optimism we will be able to reach the endgame and get to a situation where our troops can come home and feel those who have died have given their lives for something worthwhile.

"I pay great tribute to what our Armed Forces are doing and I want them all to come home as soon as possible – before 2014 if that is achievable – but the only way they can come home quickly is if we get it right, give them what they require and understand that we are fighting a war.

"Let us imagine what would have happened if there had been reductions in the defence budget when we were at war in 1940.

"I know our country has a big economic problem but we have to make sure those people who are running huge risks on our behalf are given everything they require, and our support."

Last Thursday gave MPs their first opportunity to vote on the Afghanistan conflict since the country was invaded by Allied troops in 2001.

The debate was held thanks to the insistence of the new Backbench Business Committee, which allocates parliamentary time not used by the Government.

But despite the high turnout for the vote, less than 100 MPs turned up for the preceding discussion.

Among them was Folkestone and Hythe representative Damian Collins, whose constituency is home to many current and ex-Gurkha soldiers and their families.

He said: "We cannot cut and run from Afghanistan, and I do not believe any member of any party has truly advocated that today.

"We have obligations to the Afghan people and to the situation in Afghanistan to see through our strategic objectives; to create a country where the Afghans can take over security operations and the governance of their own country.

FIGHTING: British troops stationed at Base Woqab in Afghanistan

"There may well be a need for considerable reform in how the Afghan government works, and for it to build up its own trust with its own people. We cannot do all of that for Afghanistan but we have set our course and I believe we should stick by our strategy – and that now is not the time to be considering a withdrawal."

Gillingham and Rainham MP Rehman Chishti also spoke during the debate and warned against allowing the past to repeat itself.

He said: "We cannot make the mistake that was made in 1989 when the international community left Afghanistan, creating a vacuum for al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

"We have to stay in Afghanistan to finish the end job, which means creating institutions and stability by working with the Afghan army and police force."

Police's 'right hand man' wins safety honour

VOLCANIC eruptions, earthquakes and floods have resulted in high praise for the head of Kent Police's emergency planning department who helped deal with them.

Dave Castle picked up the Outstanding Civilian Staff prize at the Safer Kent Awards, which celebrates the achievements of frontline police as well as those of community support officers, wardens and other volunteers.

Described on his citation as "the right hand" of the force, Mr Castle played a key role in incidents including the Folkestone earthquake and the north Kent power failure, and in providing humanitarian response to the Icelandic volcanic eruption.

The citation reads: "Leading a small, dedicated team, Dave truly makes a difference.

"His personal commitment, dedication and enthusiasm command the greatest respect from all roles and ranks.

"His attention to detail – and superb negotiation skills and friendly approach – make him an invaluable member of Kent Police."

Mr Castle won £50, which he donated to the winners of the Volunteer of the Year award, the Kent Search and Rescue Team.

The team of 45 volunteers provides a 24-hour call-out for emergencies and vulnerable missing person search reports.

PC Susan Luck picked up the award for Police Officer of the Year for her role in helping to reduce antisocial behaviour in Thanet.

The Team of the Year award went to officers involved in Medway's Safe Exit Project, which has reduced prostitution in the notorious New Road area of Rochester.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "The public sector is facing a really tough time so it's important to step back and recognise the talent we have here in Kent."

Youth leader in plea to spare children's services

A TEENAGE politician has launched a campaign calling for children's services to be spared in proposed Government spending cuts.

Kent Youth County Council chairman Dara Farrell, 17, is worried funding for careers advice, support and youth activities may be unfairly slashed due to a lack of representation among young people.

The Stanhope, Ashford, resident also represents the county as a member of the UK Youth Parliament, and is calling on other teenagers to help fight against the proposed cuts.

"So many services that help young people, including voluntary organisations, are at risk," he said. "I think we tend to get hit first because many of us aren't old enough to vote and often don't have a big enough platform to fight back against the Government.

"Adults are more likely to accept spending cuts if they're in areas that do not directly affect them, like youth services.

"We need a sign from the Government on where young people stand in the 'big society'. They need to consult with us because youth services are already disappearing and no-one is defending us."

Last month KOS Media revealed how the Connexions career guidance service was preparing itself for more cuts ahead of the October 20 publication of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Medway Youth Trust lost £100,000 from its £2.1 million budget this year, while the Kent branch admitted it expects a reduction in funding from 2011 onwards.

Dara has submitted a Save Our Services campaign to Channel 4's Battlefront project and is asking people to vote for it before Friday.

• ***Visit www.battlefront.co.uk/12th-campaigner for more information.***

CAMPAIGN: Dara Farrell

Spending cuts will hit us as much as up North, warns County Hall chief

Carter talks of 'false perception' of prosperous South

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DEPRIVED areas of the county will suffer from public spending cuts as much as those in the Midlands and North, warns County Hall leader Paul Carter.

Cllr Carter, who is also chairman of South East England Councils, says the Government should not be taken in by the myth that Kent is an entirely prosperous county and will escape unscathed from huge budget reductions.

Research published by the BBC last week revealed that Thanet is one of the districts least likely to withstand public spending cuts, but other towns such as Gillingham and Sheerness are also at risk.

"We need to combat the false perception that the South East is universally wealthy and make sure Government knows cuts here would harm the prospects of a huge number of people," said Cllr Carter.

"Figures show that 500,000 people in the South East live in areas within the 20 per cent most deprived in the country. This alarming number is equal to about one fifth of the population of the entire North East of England, and we must not let their needs go unnoticed."

Despite being a region of economic contrasts, the South East contributes more to the Treasury each year than is spent on public services – about £18 billion according to the most recent data published in 2007.

The region is therefore one of only three in the country, along with London and the East, which gives more than it receives.

But according to figures released this week by the GMB union, the South East is the region with the second biggest public sector job losses in the pipeline behind only Scotland.

These include 1,500 at Kent Police, about 750 at Kent County Council, and 300 at Medway Council.

Cllr Carter said: "We need to guard against disproportionate cuts made because the South East is perceived as universally prosperous.

"Parts of the South East need public investment to help us bring them up to the standards of the rest of the UK."

This is not the first time a Kent politician has spoken out over the false perception that all areas of the county are prosperous.

Last June, Tory North Thanet MP Roger Gale said it was wrong that all businesses in the South East should be excluded from National Insurance concessions announced in the emergency Budget.

He said: "Thanet still has the highest levels of social deprivation – at figures that compare with the North East.

"It would be wrong to exclude it from job-creating measures the Chancellor has announced, and to exclude local private-sector employers from a sensible package."

CUTS CONCERN: Paul Carter

Bridge work on target

REFURBISHMENTS of the Grade-II listed Old Bridge crossing at the River Medway are running ahead of schedule and will be completed before the end of the year.

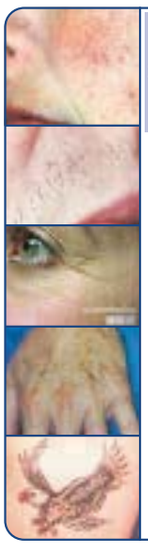
The Rochester Bridge Trust says the works, which started in April, have included removing, repairing and recasting parts of the iron balustrade, and removing old paint and recoating.

The underlying structural steelwork of the bridge has also been inspected.

The final phase of the project will include repaving the upstream footway along the length of the Old Bridge.

Sue Threader, bridge clerk for the Trust, said: "We have ensured safe working over the river by installing cantilevered scaffolding which has been shrink-wrapped to provide an enclosed platform.

"The scaffolding design has enabled work to be carried out on all three spans of the bridge without interfering with shipping passage below."



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Virgin Media has opened 25 new stores this year, taking its total number of high street outlets to 74. The new Virgin Media store is at 369 Dukes Walk, The Mall Chequers, Maidstone, ME15 6AS.

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Rising addiction risk for women using medicines

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

PATIENTS are increasingly becoming addicted to prescription and over-the-counter medication, says the head of a national women's organisation.

Pauline Myers, chairman of the Townswomen's Guild, warned of the growing problem of addiction to prescribed drugs at a conference in The Masonic Hall in Rochester last week.

The organisation, which offers support and stability to women in Kent and across the UK, held the meeting in response to a year-long study by parliamentary researchers into the problem of dependence on legal medicines.

Ms Myers said the number affected by addiction to tranquillisers, such as commonly prescribed benzodiazepines, is estimated to be between 1.5 to two million nationally.

But dependency on over-the-counter drugs containing painkillers is estimated at 150,000 to 200,000 people.

There is no official breakdown by gender, but the Townswomen's Guild said women are particularly affected by the problem.

"It isn't about quality, it's about quantity," said Ms Myers.

Anxiety

"We think drugs prescribed by our GP or available over the counter must be safe and, while we may deplore the abuse of alcohol and illegal drug-taking, we often don't realise how dangerous everyday medicines can be and how easy it is to become addicted."

The year-long investigation by the All Party Parliamentary Drugs Misuse Group looked into over-the-counter drugs such as painkillers, particularly those containing codeine, and prescription-only medicines such as benzodiazepines, which are used to relieve insomnia and anxiety.

Researchers found that despite guidance on benzodiazepines stating it should not be prescribed for more than four weeks at a time, the inquiry heard evidence from people who had been prescribed them for 30 years.

WARNING: Everyday drugs can be addictive

But health chiefs in Kent defended the NHS, saying it worked hard to ensure prescriptions of addictive drugs were monitored.

Alison Issott, assistant director of medicines management for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, said all prescription medication was observed and safeguards were being put in place to stop benzodiazepines being prescribed for more than 28 days.

"We constantly monitor all prescription drugs, and in particular those drugs which are known to be addictive, by looking at the prescribing habits of our GPs," she said.

"Our Medicines Management Teams work with all our prescribers to ensure that medicine use is safe, evidence-based, value for money and appropriate for the patients for whom they are prescribed.

"We are putting new safeguards in place and all benzodiazepines should not be prescribed for more than 28 days in line with guidance from the Department of Health."

She added: "The primary care trust is also encouraging 28-day prescribing for all drugs, which will ensure patient's medication is regularly reviewed and appropriate care, treatment and support is offered."

At NHS West Kent GPS are offered advice where prescribing is exceptionally high.

Gaye Lewington, assistant director of medicines management, added: "NHS West Kent routinely monitors GP practice prescribing for benzodiazepines and other sleeping tablets as well as painkillers and other medication at risk of overuse."

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Case closed, but anti-drugs fight goes on

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A MOTHER mourning the loss of her daughter who died after taking cocaine has been spurred on in her fight against drugs after the police investigation was closed.

Angela Pett, from Gravesend, said finding out that the person who sold 20-year-old Haniska contaminated cocaine would continue to walk the streets only added to her motivation in stopping "parasite" dealers ruining young lives.

The 47-year-old has now launched a fresh battle involving pubs and clubs in Gravesend, Dartford and Maidstone and is hoping to roll it out across Kent.

She is calling on owners to take responsibility for stopping open selling of drugs in their premises and to show support by putting up stickers stating: 'Be an anti-drugs angel – no more drugs in our pubs and clubs'.

STICKER: Getting the message across

"I have young people coming to me for advice, asking what they should do when they see drug-dealing on nights out," Mrs Pett told KOS Media.

"They know me because of what happened to Haniska, they know I've been affected personally and they tell me what they see.

"I know Haniska was naughty for taking it in the first place and I would never condone what she did, but she didn't expect to die.

"The person who sold it to her cut it with MDMA [ecstasy], MDA [amphetamines] and a worming tablet. They're not a chemist, yet they wanted to make more money so cut the drugs before selling them."

Haniska has been on a night out in Gravesend with friends in October, 2008, when she bought the cocaine.

After taking it, the young hairdresser started fitting and was rushed to hospital where she died seven hours later, leaving her mother, father Ian, 50, and brother Joe, 24, devastated.

Mrs Pett said the police case was dropped last week through lack of evidence.

"I see the dealer in the street – I walk past him on the way to work," she said. "But all it has done is push me to get the message out there. I've got to keep the campaign going.

"Because I have been personally affected it hits home to people even more. When I had a meeting with pub and club owners I took Haniska's ashes and a picture of her with me.

"I put them on the table and said, 'I'd like you to meet my daughter – this is before and this is after'. They were speechless.

"I told them this could have happened in their venue, that other people could die and they could be shut down.

"You could have heard a pin drop. I needed to shock people into listening."

Mrs Pett has been working closely with Kent Police since her daughter's death. As well as the new pub and club campaign, she has featured in a television advert warning people off drugs and had a giant picture of her daughter projected on a wall in Gravesend to drive home the message.

LOSS: Angela Pett with a photo of Haniska

"Finding out the case was closed was like reliving it all over again – it was a kick in the gut," she said.

"I don't blame the police, I do understand, but this person has got away with murder.

"All it has given me now is more motivation to get out there and try and stop it happening again."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Rail summit date for County Hall

A SECOND Kent rail summit is being held to push for better services for travellers.

The event, organised by Kent County Council, is at County Hall on Thursday, October 21.

Cabinet member for environment, highways and waste Cllr Nick Chard said: "Our aim is to bring together a report describing the long-term improvements to rail services we want to see for Kent.

"This will inform the investment and service plans of Southeastern, Network Rail and the Department for Transport as they prepare for the new Kent franchise in 2012-14."

He wants to hear from residents and rail users about the broad improvements to rail services they would like to see. You can email him at nick.chard@kent.gov.uk.

Southeastern managing director Charles Horton will attend the summit and representatives of Network Rail, the DfT, and Passenger Focus have been invited.

Golden glow after Millie's transplant

A KIDNEY operation couldn't stop 11-year-old Millie Young going for gold.

The Bromley schoolgirl won gold medals in the 25-metre breaststroke swim, table tennis singles and 50-metre track event; silver medals in the long jump and obstacle race; and a bronze in the swim relay, at the 2010 British Transplant Games in Bath.

Last year some 3,500 lives were saved or improved thanks to organ donors and their families. But across the UK the number of people waiting for a transplant is on the rise and the number of potential donors is falling.

To join the NHS organ donor register, log on at www.uktransplant.org.uk or call 0300 123 23 23.

Fate rewrites script for mum Julie and long-lost daughter

TOGETHER: Julie and Sara in Kew Gardens

A FORMER EastEnders scriptwriter has revealed a story more incredible than any soap plotline, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Julie Wassmer was just 16 when she give up her 10-day-old daughter, Sarah. She only told her parents she was pregnant on the day she went into hospital to have her baby – June 16, 1970.

Fighting back the tears, Julie said: "As I was leaving, one of the other mothers asked where my baby was. I had to tell her I was leaving her behind."

But the pair were reunited two decades later by an extraordinary coincidence. Now Julie, from Whitstable, has won a national BBC competition to have her book about the reunion published by Harper Collins. One coincidence was that Sarah's adoptive parents chose the name Sara. She is now 40 and has two children of her own.

She told KoS Media of the amazing sequence that healed a family's tragedy and featured on the BBC's My Story show, which highlights remarkable true-life stories.

More 7,500 people sent in entries and a panel shortlisted 15 finalists including Julie, who became the first of five to win the ultimate prize: to see their story become a published book, titled More Than Just Coincidence.

Julie said: "Twenty years ago when I was 37, I started writing screenplays and plays and it was suggested I should get a literary agent. I had no idea what one of those was, but I was encouraged by two people to see one called Michelle in London. I went to her office in Piccadilly on November 5, 1990. The night before I had the feeling something extraordinary was going to happen, but didn't know what.

'White as a sheet'

"During the course of a meeting a young secretary, who wasn't Michelle's secretary, served coffee. Michelle swears she introduced us, but couldn't have used surnames.

"The next day, when Michelle was dictating a letter to me, once more using that same secretary because her own was off sick, she mentioned my surname. The girl went white as a sheet and realised I was her mum, as she had seen her own birth certificate. She was 20 at the time.

"We met at the pagoda in Kew Gardens a few days later. We fell into one another's arms. It was very emotional. We felt like twins rather than mother and daughter."

She added: "It was the one story I never wrote, even fictionally, but it has a coincidence so extraordinary that no-one would ever believe the plot. I also didn't want to end up exploiting my daughter and put words in her mouth. It really was a miracle – fate. Now enough time has passed and I knew it was the right time to tell this tale."

Julie was a freelance writer working on episodes of EastEnders for 20 years, and also wrote for Family Affairs, Medics and London's Burning. She also scripted a £20,000 drama series for teenagers, called Hollywould, on behalf of Kent County Council's former internet TV channel which was operated by Sir Bob Geldof.

Sara said: "When we met properly for the first time, we just hugged. Even though I had a great family and parents, when we first met it was like, 'Mummy'. It suddenly brought it all back.

"Then we sat down and just talked and talked, there were no awkward silences. I just knew everything would be all right."

• More Than Just Coincidence is published by HarperTrue, priced £6.99.

Doing a 'Gavin and Stacey' for Maidstone

A COMEDY writer from Maidstone is looking to take the pilot of his new county town-based sitcom sll the way to the BBC. Actor and producer Kevin Durham says he wants to "do for Maidstone what Gavin and Stacey did for Barry Island".

The 27-year-old has created the plot around a main character, loosely based on himself, in a style similar to the US comedy hit Curb Your Enthusiasm.

Kevin said: "Our character, also named Kevin Durham, is based on a side of me which is really quite stubborn. The pilot episode follows him around the town for the day."

The idea for the show, called Everything's Wrong, came about when Kevin thought he had developed a chest infection and wanted to see a doctor.

He said: "My partner told me to use my inhalers instead, but I went to the doctor anyway.

"I ended up having a disagreement with the GP, who also told me to use my inhalers, but I wanted antibiotics.

FILMING: Kevin Durham on the set of Everything's Wrong

"We ended up going back and forth until I got the antibiotics.

"As I was walking out, it just came to me that this was like a ridiculous scene from a sitcom."

Kevin, who sold his events company earlier this year, shot the entire sitcom episode in four locations across Maidstone, including a house and garage in Foster Road, a café in Upper Stone Road, and a surgery in Holland Road.

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Abusers' light sentences attacked

By MARIJKE COX
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A CHILDREN'S charity has attacked the sentences given to a couple who cruelly abused two young boys in their care.

Bosses at Kidscape, which works towards keeping children safe from abuse, questioned whether the two-year jail terms handed to Kristina Davies, 20, and Ricky Winter, 23, reflected the severity of their crimes.

The pair, both of Canterbury Road, Cliftonville, Margate, subjected the boys – one aged two and the other four – to a catalogue of abuse during a 10-day period in July last year.

The younger child was found to have a broken collarbone and bitemarks on his buttocks and genitals, while the four-year-old suffered extensive bruising on his head and back and bites on his bottom.

Systematic

The abuse was only discovered after neighbours reported their concerns to the police. An expert witness paediatrician said it was the worst case he had encountered in 30 years.

Claude Knights, a director of Kidscape, said the sentences were too light for such brutal abuse. "We have to ask whether a two-year jail sentence reflects the severity of the crimes against these children," she said.

"The attacks suffered by these children were brutal, systematic and premeditated.

"Either one of these assailants could have halted the behaviour but chose not to do so.

"One of the concerns we would have is that we need to ensure these people are not returned to society before it is safe to do so. We need to think of the safety of other children."

Davies and Winter, who pleaded not guilty to eight charges of child neglect at Canterbury Crown Court but were found guilty in August, both claimed the boys had inflicted the injuries on one another. But an expert compared the dental impressions taken from the children to the abusers and proved Davies had bitten one of the boys on his backside.

The couple also forced the boys to stand in a corner with their hands on their heads for long periods, cry on demand, and kiss Winter's feet.

Davies and Winter screamed in the boys' faces on numerous occasions.

Judge Simon James said the four-year-old suffered 14 separate injuries across his body.

The couple claimed they were unable to control the boys at their home, but the judge said it was "far beyond" chastisement.

"These injuries can only be described as horrific. They were applied with brutal force. They were truly sickening," he said.

"Any right-thinking person would only feel revulsion at your treatment of these children. This was a systematic and calculated period of cruelty for which neither of you feel any remorse."

Dangerous

Acting Det Sgt Paul Deslandes, who led the investigation, said it was a harrowing case.

"Our child abuse investigation unit acted swiftly in response to concerns about the boys' welfare and, together with social services, we took the children away from a dangerous situation and prevented them from coming to any further harm," he said.

Davies was sent to a Young Offenders' Institution due to her age.

BEHIND BARS: Abusers Ricky Winter, above, and Kristina Davies, below

A NEW viral campaign has been launched by children's charity NSPCC to raise awareness of its helpline service.

It follows the sentencing this week of Kristina Davies and Ricky Winter after they subjected two young boys to horrific abuse.

The ordeal was only discovered after concerned neighbours contacted police.

The charity's internet advert shows the everyday choices made by people and ends with a person deciding to call the helpline for advice after concerns about the treatment of a neighbour's child.

John Cameron, head of the NSPCC service, said: "Every day the helpline receives calls about children being horrifically mistreated or left in danger.

"Though many people do call us to report children being neglected, there are others who don't act on their suspicions. Young children can't get help for themselves. You could be their only hope.

"We would urge anyone who has concerns about a child to act on their behalf and contact the NSPCC helpline."

Commenting on the Davies and Winter case, he said: "Defenceless children suffered terrible neglect at the hands of those who were meant to care for them. Sadly, the cruelty these boys suffered is not unique.

"Neglect makes up nearly half of all child protection cases known to the authorities, and this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Anybody with concerns about the treatment of a child can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

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One hundred years on, and Girl Guiding remains a thoroughly modern movement

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CAPTION: (left) The Little 9th 1939 - Dover Guides Collection and (right) Four Sea Rangers walking on Marine Parade Dover (2)

Guides mark centenary of character building

GIRL Guides are as relevant today as they have ever been, according to a division commissioner as the movement celebrates its first century.

To mark the turning of 100 years for the Girl Guiding movement, Dover Museum has launched a special exhibition.

It tells the story of the Guides both locally and nationally.

Mary Fagg is the commissioner for the South Foreland Division which covers Dover and the surrounding rural villages.

She told KoS Media: "The Girl Guides movement really is still highly relevant.

"I know things were different 100 years ago, but we have moved with the times and upgraded all our programmes accordingly.

"It is still the character building group it always was and simply things like right and wrong are taught to the girls to make them better people.

"The Girl Guides really is something that illustrates very clearly a decent framework for life, really.

"I would very much recommend to all parents to send their children along to us – there are so many benefits.

"A couple of weekends ago we took a group of 50 girls away to an activity centre which was tremendous fun."

She added: "But we are always in need for people to come along and become volunteer leaders as we are quite short.

"The more leaders we have the more girls we can cater for. They will have to undergo a criminal record check which is perfectly routines these days."

The exhibition runs for four months from October 8 and is being organised by Dover Museum with the South Foreland Division.

Over the years, thousands of girls and young women from the Dover area have been involved with guiding, and the exhibition looks at the range of activities and achievements of local members, from the beginnings through to the modern day.

The event demonstrates the impact guiding has had on Dover including modern fundraising, international trips and community projects.

The groups represented include Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Senior Section and Trefoils.

It also features historic and modern photographs of the Guides, local archives, and objects such as uniforms, camping equipment and badges.

Jenny Winder, Dover Town Guiding Commissioner said: "This is a great chance for people to come along and find out more about guiding and why it has been so important to Dover.

"For 100 years we have been putting girls in the lead and supporting them to have life-changing experiences, whether that is learning about something new in their weekly meetings or travelling abroad to see other cultures."

For more information contact Dover Museum on 01304 201066.

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WEIGHTY PROBLEM: Kent is too fat

Kent tops the South East's obesity chart

THE COUNTY is the most obese area of the South East, and a new strategy has been drawn up to improve attitudes towards diet and exercise, ***writes Steve Knight.***

Between 20 and 25 per cent of the population of the county is obese, with Kent and Medway having the highest prevalence of obesity in the South East.

The new strategy – approved by Kent County Council cabinet members on Monday – aims to promote the benefits of healthy living without making people feel they are being told what to do.

"This is about looking at the problem of obesity as a whole and seeing what more we can do," said cabinet member for public health, Cllr Alan Marsh.

"We know there is an increase in diabetes, early deaths and heart disease – all caused by people not helped enough to get the best out of their lives.

"We will work with people and for people in order that their quality of life is the best possible. It is one of my core values to promote and support that aim."

According to the most recently available statistics, the districts suffering from the highest prevalence of obesity are Swale, Gravesham and Dartford.

The lowest prevalence figures are in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells.

It is predicted that obesity will soon overtake smoking as the biggest cause of premature death and long-term illness, and that unless the trend is reversed, children born today will have a lower life expectancy than their parents for the first time in 100 years.

Among the aims in the Healthy Weight Strategy are for people to recognise their weight issues at an earlier stage, better promotion of healthier food choices and the creation of incentives for better health.

Cllr Marsh said: "The strategy is about making sure we provide all the information and initiatives people need to make an informed choice about living with a healthy weight."

Airport town gets Boris backing

BIGGIN Hill has been earmarked as a strategic development centre by London Mayor Boris Johnson.

The town, near Westerham, is one of a handful of locations in outer London to be nominated for future growth.

The draft replacement London Plan has highlighted how Biggin Hill has proved capable of co-ordinating public and private infrastructure investment.

Mr Johnson has gone on record as saying he will work with relevant parties to explore the potential of the locations listed in the plan for specialist growth.

Andrew Walters, the chairman of Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, said: "Biggin Hill will generate new jobs and attract businesses to use the local industrial estates and vacant buildings in areas around the airport."

A TIME capsule documenting life in Medway in 2010 has been buried in the Great Lines Heritage Park.

The capsule has been buried to signify the end of the first phase of improvement works to the Great Lines Heritage Park and to mark the bid to win World Heritage Site status for Chatham Dockyard and its defences.

Among the capsule's treasures were a copy of the Royal Engineers magazine The Sapper, documents detailing Chatham's bid for World Heritage Site status, a copy of Medway Matters, a beret badge from the 1039 Gillingham Squadron Air Training Corps, and Medway regeneration plans.

A BREAKTHROUGH by scientists at pharmaceutical giant Pfizer could save thousands of lives – and be worth up to £6 billion a year.

The company's experimental blood-thinner apixaban beat its rivals in a race to find a way to prevent dangerous clots that cause strokes and deadly lung damage among vulnerable people.

Patients who took the Pfizer drug were 54 per cent less likely to have a stroke or damaging clot than those who took aspirin, in a study of 5,600 patients who cannot use the standard therapy warfarin, researchers at the European Society of Cardiology conference in Stockholm said.

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Fighting chance of a winning shot

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A PHOTOGRAPHIC journey through the battlefields of Afghanistan to the sporting fields of Kent is being exhibited to inspire the next generation of budding snappers.

Work from five photographers with more than 100 years of experience between them will be showcased.

Ady Kerry, who joined the RAF as a photographer in 1986, and Tom Lloyd, worldwide head of photography in the British Army for 30 years, exhibited their work last year, capturing the interest of three others in the business who have joined them for this year's display, titled: From Playing Field to Battlefield.

John Gichigi, who covered 10 Olympic Games and numerous world title boxing fights in his 30 years at Getty Images; Barry Goodwin, who spent 14 seasons covering Formula One; and Mark Jones, a serving professional photographer with the Army, are all contributing work to the exhibition in Whitstable.

Mr Kerry, whose work regularly appears in this newspaper, said he hoped it would inspire people to take even better pictures.

"Photography is not very well advertised and is an under-exhibited art," he said.

"There are so many other art exhibitions out there which people view as something brilliant that they are unable to do.

"I can't paint, for example, but I can take photographs and I think most people feel they can do it, too. Everybody has a camera these days. I'd like others to be inspired by our work to make them take better pictures or to encourage the next generation to look at photography as a profession." Mr Kerry said his part of the exhibition focuses primarily on England hockey and air space protection.

Picture: TOM LLOYD

"My favourite kind of photography changes through the years. I used to love photographing Premiership football, but I don't miss it now," he said. "My main focus now is hockey."

Mr Kerry said despite developments in technology through the years, the essence of photography has remained the same.

"We work in a different way these days, where with digital cameras you can edit things immediately, show people pictures and see what needs to be different, and the technology to edit pictures is brilliant," he said. "But even when film was used, photographers would use a Polaroid to see how a picture would look before taking it. Things haven't changed that much in that respect.

"With the technology to improve photographs once they are taken it means people can create great pictures, but it's much better to have a great picture already."

The exhibition will showcase different pictures from army to sporting life, giving an insight into the daily life and work of a photographer.

It runs from September 29 to October 5, 9am-6pm Monday to Saturday; and 10am-6pm on Sundays, at the Horsebridge Gallery in Whitstable.

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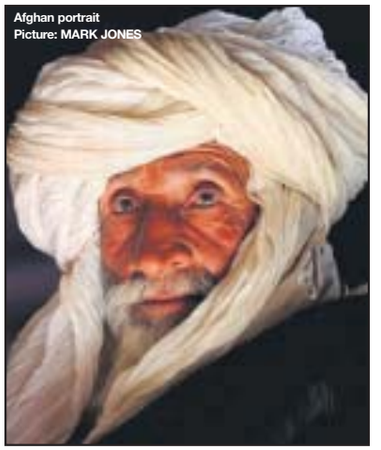
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LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

A path out of the doldrums

Nine months ago the Marine and Coastal Access Act passed into law, confirming the widely held view that the coast is a national treasure we should all be able to share.

Worryingly, over the past few weeks there have been many reports warning that the future of the coastal path may be in jeopardy.

A complete coastal path would be a huge boost to the economy and the enjoyment of the public, which is vitally important in these difficult financial times.

The coastal path costs relatively little but will bring much-needed income and jobs to our beleaguered coastal regions. It will also be a source of attraction and enjoyment to tourists both from home and abroad. As recession continues to bite we are seeing more and more people abandon their plans for a foreign break in favour of a trip to the British seaside. A complete coastal path will ensure they have an attractive alternative should they decide to stay at home.

Whether you live by the sea or just occasionally visit, a complete coastal path will be a source of pleasure we can all cherish.

There is nothing better to revive the body and mind then a walk along the coast. I hope your readers will join me in calling on the Government to continue to promote the coastal path and its part in the quintessential British seaside holiday, for the sake of our economy, our jobs and our enjoyment.

Andrew Austen, Faversham

Yobbery to fill police vacuum

Kent's Chief Constable Ian Learmonth is right to point out what the coalition Government's cuts will mean to police numbers across the county. For those of us in Deal, the minimal police presence we had recently begun to enjoy will disappear.

Deal is generally a law-abiding place, so police will be directed to Dover, to fill gaps left by the port's officers being moved to hotter spots.

And the essential work of forensics, analysis and data recording will take longer and longer, because they are not, according to the coalition, frontline services.

It will then take longer to get criminals to court, always assuming there are enough coppers about and enough back-up facilities to get a case together in the first place.

These cuts will take police off the streets and put the yobs back on them.

These cuts will really hurt ordinary, decent people. Whether they will have much impact on Mark Reckless, the recently elected Conservative MP, Medway councillor and member of the Police Authority, will remain to be seen.

Cllr Mike Eddy (Labour) Mill Hill ward, Dover District Council

OPINION: OUR TROUBLE WITH FOOD

The ticking time bomb of food security is a slowly emerging crisis that will have an impact on the lives of everyone in the UK, warns Kent MP **LAURA SANDYS**

FOR too long we have been avoiding one of the biggest threats to this country – deluded by low prices, importing most of what is on our shelves and dismissing calls from UK farmers and fishermen to focus more on national food production.

Food insecurity is a crisis emerging slowly, but one that will impact our shores and our citizens sooner rather than later.

The tension between population growth and climate change is placing this country on a trajectory towards significant food inflation, and every person in the country is going to feel the pain.

We are seeing the start of serious problems that will only increase in years to come. Food is a truly globalised business and each and every one of us will feel the impact of Russia's decision to suspend wheat exports – in our pockets.

Tons of wheat has been wiped out in Pakistan. This will also affect world wheat prices and add even greater unpredictability to securing food staples.

A new era of trade protectionism in foodstuffs could well be on the horizon – not for economic gain but to ensure domestic stability. Could the Russian president be seen to be exporting wheat when his voting public see threefold price rises for bread on the streets of Moscow?

Food security has for too long been dismissed by policymakers domestically. In many ways we have devolved responsibility to the supermarkets, expecting the market to deliver plentiful and cheap food to our shops.

But how vulnerable is this system? And are we considering the impact of rising food prices and scarcity in foods that we take for granted?

Sir John Beddington, the Government's chief scientific adviser, and his predecessor, Sir David King, have been highlighting this serious vulnerability for years.

However, too little has been done and time might not be on the side of consumers – particularly the poor. Firstly, we must assess the risk – a risk that is growing and will only accelerate exponentially with global crises that will affect food production and lead to rising commodity prices.

Secondly, the Government should halt development on grade one agricultural land – the means and resources for food production must be regarded as a national priority.

And all of this, at a time when we predict some parts of the nation might lose productive land due to sea level rises. The Council for the Protection of Rural England estimates as much as 10 per cent of productive land will be lost in Kent alone by 2030. We must also rethink the way we use food. I was recently part of a TV programme that highlighted that up to 30 per cent of food – good food – is thrown away every year.

Supermarkets reject fruit and vegetables that do not fit their so-called 'aesthetic standards'; sell-by dates encourage us to throw away food that is perfectly fresh; and meat cuts such as offal are discarded as we have forgotten how to eat or cook them.

Regulations compel fishermen to discard fish based upon an outmoded quota system and they are forced to throw away sources of valuable protein. A third step towards greater food security is the need to develop and invest in world-class food production technologies.

Food production will and must become one of Britain's industries of the future. Schools and universities must take steps to draw together the best brains and resources to address the challenge of dealing with food security.

Up until rationing was lifted after the war, food security was regarded as a strategic issue for government. I urge the Government to look again at food production as part of our national security, establish a cross-departmental working team to ensure food inflation and scarcity is understood throughout Whitehall – and that we take the advice of our leading scientists.

This is a time bomb whose fuse has just been lit.

• ***Laura Sandys is the Conservative MP for South Thanet***

KOS media COMMENT

Untried, untested and unwarranted

IT'S no secret that the public sector across the UK is braced for some of the deepest Government spending cuts in history.

Next month the findings of the Comprehensive Spending Review will be published, signalling the start of months of belt-tightening and – more worryingly – redundancies.

That said, it is difficult to fathom why the Government wants to spend £2 million on an election for a Kent police commissioner who will perform virtually the same functions as the existing police authority.

All we have heard since well before the General Election is how dire a state the economy is in, and how 'we're all in this together' in the fight for recovery.

Well, if we're all in this together, why haven't we been asked if we even want to elect a police commissioner? What will we as taxpayers see in return for our £2m?

Nobody seems to have the answers to those questions, but the coalition is carrying on regardless.

While Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes is clearly not a fan of the police commissioner model, there will doubtless be people out there who are – such as Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless.

But there is a time and a place for spending millions on untried and untested ideas, and this is most certainly not it.

At least we can all drown our sorrows

INDUSTRIAL action appears increasingly likely as public sector union members grow concerned at the potential impact of the spending cuts.

But while uncollected rubbish and library closures will have a negative effect on residents' lives, the pub action threatened by the GMB is an entirely different prospect for all concerned.

Up to £1 off the price of a pint of lager? There can't be many regulars who will have a problem with that.

A striking lack of intelligence

Last week's story headlined Taxpayers 'fund union action' made my blood boil. Using taxpayers' money when they should be funding this themselves.

Have they no intelligence at all? The country is in the state it is because people have brought this on themselves. For 25 years they have been insisting on fewer hours and more money – the country couldn't go on like this.

Unions and strikes are not the way, as anyone over the age of 40 can tell you. Cuts have to be made, everyone will have to cut back on their lifestyle and luxuries. How many industries have we lost in this country because of strikes and people expecting more money for less work

The car industry is a good example. Because of workers' greed most manufacturers closed in Britain, moved abroad or sold up. If the unions do not calm down we shall have another crisis on our hands.

What do they expect strikes to achieve? Only more misery. They keep talking about poverty in this country – we have no poverty. The problem is everyone expects too much for doing hardly anything.

If we all work together we can get through this – but only if all of us pull together. Do not listen to the unions. They should pay all the money back to taxpayers.

C Russell, Ramsgate

Debt of thanks to RAF heroes

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. In order to commemorate the event and to express appreciation to those serving in the RAF today, I urge readers to take part in the RAF Benevolent Fund's Heartfelt Thanks campaign.

The campaign gives people the opportunity to write their own personal message of thanks to members of the RAF, both past and present. This is easily done either online at www.rafbf.org/thanks or on cards available at air shows and RAF Benevolent Fund events. All messages gathered are being presented to some of the few surviving veterans of the battle as part of the anniversary celebrations this month.

Messages will continue to be collected until the end of the year, creating an invaluable public record. I'd urge everyone to write a Heartfelt Thanks message and play their part in acknowledging what Winston Churchill called 'the debt we owe' to the remarkable men and women of the Royal Air Force.

Paul Hewson, RAF Benevolent Fund regional director

Air mail needs to be sent now

Anyone opposed to the expansion of Lydd airport should write to the inspector before September 24.

Nearly 14,000 people initially wrote to the Government Office for the South East to oppose the plans but no letters will be passed on from GOSE for the public inquiry.

Letters should be sent: FAO the Inspector (KD Barton), c/o Leanne Palmer, Room 4/02 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN; or email leanne.palmer@pins.gsi.gov.uk.

Martin Whybrow, Shepway Green Party

Prime causes of our decline

Every Prime Minister from Edward Heath on should take a good look at this once wonderful country and hang their heads in shame. Not one had the guts to ask the people what they wanted and those running the country now don't have the guts either. If David Cameron's memory is so good that he doesn't need notes, perhaps he should remember all the people who died fighting for this country. We need a PM who loves Britain, not themselves.

RE Tucker, Sheeress

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone KOS Media on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BALDOCK
Karen and Brian are pleased to announce the happy arrival of baby Olivia, born at William Harvey Hospital on 01/09/2010. A sister for Kieran and Sam. A precious gift for the Family.

CHITTY
Keiron and Amanda celebrate the birth of their son and daughter Noah Keiron Frank, weighing 3lbs 14oz, and Matilda Olivia Elizabeth, weighing 4lbs 1oz, on 9th August 2010. Beautiful brother and sister to Megan.

COLLINS
Andrew and Lauren are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Alexander Raine, born on 2nd September 2010 weighing 7lb 3oz, born at Pembury Hospital.

CUMMINS
Allan and Samantha are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their son James Edward Cummins on the 27th August 2010.

FAIRBRASS
Mollie Dorothy, born on 10th September 2010 at the William Harvey Hospital, weighing 7lbs 4oz. Daughter to Tina Tatum and David Fairbrass.

SIMMONS
Clair and Peter would like to announce the birth of their son George Bailey Simmons, who was born on the 30th August 2010. A younger brother to Jamie and a welcome addition to the family.

WALKER
Jodie Baker and Shane Walker would like to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl Poppy Eloise Walker, born on the 20th August 2010. Mummy and Daddy love you millions princess x x x

YALAJU
Teresa Oma-Ortisetan Omowumi Ajua born on 30th August 2010, weighing 6lb 7oz. Daughter to Roseline and Gregory Yalaju.

DEATHS

BIRKBY
Joseph William Birkby born 19/09/1933, husband on Patricia Kathleen Birkby, sadly passed away on 02/06/2010. Much loved husband, dad, brother and grandad, missed already. Funeral to take place on Wednesday 15th September 2010 at Vinters Park at 1.15pm All welcome.

BRYANT
Gwendoline Marjory Bryant of Canterbury passed away peacefully on 12th September 2010 after a short illness. A much loved mum, grandmother and great grandmother who will be sadly missed. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on 27th September at 12.40. Donations if desired to The Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

CHABLE
Christopher John Chable passed away peacefully on 6th September 2010, aged 63 years. Funeral service to be held at Eltham Crematorium on Friday 24th September 2010 at 10.45 am. Flowers/donations to Ellenor Lions Hospice, c/o Cooperative Funeralcare, 127a Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2PG.

COX
Joyce Cox died peacfully on 3rd September 2010 aged 77. Funeral service took place at Hawkinge Cemetary at 2.30pm on 14th September. Donations to the Pilgrims Hospice in Ashford.

MAWHINNEY
Norman Mawhinney of Gravesend, formerly Donaghadee, passed away peacefully after a long illness on 7th September 2010, lovingly remembered by his family.

MOUNT
James Mount died 10th September peacefully at Maurice House, Broadstairs, aged 101 years, formally resided at 92 Ashford Road, Thannington Without, Canterbury. Funeral at Barham on the 1st October 11:20am everyone welcomed. No flowers, but donations to Maurice House on the day.

PULLEN
Alma Pullen died on the 6th September 2010, aged 76 years. Dearly loved wife of Albert, mother to Anita and Anna. Grandmother to Rebecca, Thomas, Joseph, Charlotte and Sophie. Great Grandmother to Noah. Funeral service at Bluebell Hill Crematorium at 11.40am on 21st September 2010. Flowers or charitable donations. Forever in our hearts.

STARKEL
Mary Burnett Starkel, mother of Suzanne Wendy, died peacefully on 4th September 2010. Funeral Service to be arranged by Birds Funeral Directors of Maidstone, Kent.

READER COMPETITION

Win a GO KART ELECTRIC GOLF with GolfforKent.co.uk

So why is the GoKart different?

Modern computer aided design transformed the scribbles into an electric golf trolley that not only looks good, but is also surprisingly strong.

Miles (and miles and miles) of test fairways ensured that the GoKart powered golf trolley kept all its promises. It's light (it is, 7.6kg) and is easy to use folding down to a very compact size.

All the extras that make a difference; handles for easy lifting, scorecard, ball and tee holders, left/right handed operation, quick release wheels. They're all there.

To enter the competition answer the following question:
What is the starting point for each hole on a golf course called?

Send you answer on a postcode, with your name, address and telephone number to Golf Kart Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.

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1. Entrants must be aged 18 or over. Proof of age may be required. 2. Each eligible entry will be automatically entered into a prize draw and the winner will be randomly selected from all entries received. 3. Only one entry per person and proof of posting is not proof of receipt. No responsibility will be accepted for entries that are delayed in the post. 4. Closing date for entries is Friday 24st October 2010. 5. There is no cash alternative to the prize. 6. The terms and conditions of any third party supplier will apply to the prize where applicable. 7. The promoter will not be liable for prizes that do not reach the winners for reasons beyond the promoter's control.
8. If any winner is not able, for whatever reason, to accept a prize, or cannot be contacted after the Promoter's reasonable endeavours, then the Promoter reserves the right to award the prize to another participant. 9. The Promoter's decision is final and legally binding on all entrants. 10. No correspondence will be entered into. Entries that do not comply in full with these entry rules and conditions will be disqualified.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Ape expectations

Last week the European Parliament agreed new controls on the use of animals in laboratory testing across Europe.

About 12 million animals, mostly rats and mice, are used in experiments across the EU each year. Half of these are for drug development and testing, a third for biology studies, and the rest for cosmetics tests, toxicology and disease diagnosis.

As the wife of a primatologist, my interest in primate welfare precedes my time in Parliament. I am pleased that the new rules are a step in the right direction, but disappointed they don't go far enough. The legislation will undoubtedly raise standards across the Continent but questions still remain over how effective it will be.

Those countries with higher standards cannot reduce them, but the rest will now have to improve to meet these standards.

The use of primates is now subject to greater restrictions, and the use of great apes in scientific procedures, while previously banned in UK, is now banned across the EU – something for which Liberal Democrat MEPs have been campaigning for some time. The new directive outlaws the collection of animals from the wild for use in experiments. My main concern, however, is over this rule's enforcement. How do we police this effectively?

The new rules also fail to deal with the problem of second generation wild primates.

While primates cannot be taken from the wild for experimentation, they can and are taken for breeding. As their offspring are born in captivity they are then sold for use in experiments. This new legislation is a step in the right direction but much more must be done, which is something that I will be working towards.

Catherine Bearder, Lib Dem MEP for South East England

Smile on your mug

Macmillan Cancer Support invites readers to take part in our World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday.

We are looking to sign up a record 1,204 hosts to raise £215,000 across Kent to help celebrate the 20th year of the event and would like to encourage anyone living in the area to register.

All you have to do is get together with friends or colleagues for cakes and a cuppa – a very enjoyable way of helping us raise the £8.3 million we need to reach more people affected by cancer. The money you raise will help Macmillan fund specialist nurses, new cancer centres and grants to support people living with cancer. The coffee morning takes place on September 24, but if you can't make that day, why not hold your event at another time?

Whether you'd prefer to organise a glamorous coffee-themed evening, serve up smoothies, or host a herbal tea party, that's up to you. All that matters is that you take part. So put a smile on your mug and help people affected by cancer. To find out more about the World's Biggest Coffee Morning click on www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 070 1315. Or to organise a different event, call Liz O'Hanlon or Laura Kennedy on 01622 600050.

Elizabeth Corbyn, Macmillan Cancer Support, Maidstone

A bright idea, Ted

Reading Ted Prangnell's letter last week made me drop my glass of claret. Is he conceding that at times it can take two people to cause a road accident and it is not all down to speeding drivers?

I can only agree with his letter and add, that with the hours of darkness getting longer, those who walk or cycle should wear clothing that highlights their presence, so other, faster moving traffic can see them more easily. After all, they are the ones who are going to come off worse in an accident.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Make a difference

I'm calling the nation to feel happier, get fitter and lose weight without having to go on a strict diet or to the gym.

The perfect solution is to simply volunteer a little of your time. This year's Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 30, is the nation's biggest day of volunteering and we need help on thousands of projects.

Neglected ponds, abandoned community gardens and safe play areas for children all need your help. Being a designer myself, I appreciate the benefits of having a beautiful living space – give a neighbour's neglected bedroom a lick of paint, design a mosaic wall hanging for a nursing home or brighten up a homeless shelter's kitchen with funky tiles, get involved and feel the benefits. Making a small change for the better really does make a difference to people's lives.

This is the 15th Make A Difference Day organised by CSV, the UK's leading volunteering charity. You can register for Make a Difference Day now to receive free resources to help create an inspirational volunteer project. So whether you want to take part with your company, school, community group, or even go it alone, get in touch by visiting www.csv.org.uk/difference or calling 0800 284533.

Andrea Maflin, CSV

Vuvuzela menace

Deafness Research UK has been campaigning throughout the summer for a ban on the vuvuzela in football grounds, in this country and further afield. Our campaign has included letters to national newspapers, football clubs and fanzines to warn spectators directly of the dangers these tuneless trumpets could pose to their hearing.

Capable of emitting sounds in excess of 130 decibels, the widespread use of these trumpets at stadiums risks the creation of a tinnitus time bomb for future generations to have to deal with.

We take our hats off to Uefa, which has now heeded the concerns over these plastic horns and banned them from stadiums in all competitions from the Champions League, Europa League and the Euro 2012 qualifiers. It just seems a shame that Europe seems more in tune with the dangers of these devices and the wishes of the public than authorities in the UK. We now need a blanket FA and Premier League ban, so we can consign these instruments of audible torture to history once and for all.

Vivienne Michael, CEO, Deafness Research UK

Will power, please

We are asking you to remember Leonard Cheshire Disability in your will, as Remember A Charity Week comes to a close this weekend.

The week saw more than 140 charities coming together to highlight the importance of gifts left in wills.

Legacy gifts are vital to the work of Leonard Cheshire Disability, enabling us to provide a wide range of activities and support to disabled people in Kent and across the UK. About 40 per cent of our donated income comes from people leaving a gift in their will. Any legacy – big or small – can make a huge difference to someone's life.

For example, gardening tools could help a person plant seeds as part of a horticultural project, or a computer can help a disabled person learn IT skills and be more independent.

Research shows 35 per cent of Britons say they would consider including a gift to charity in their will, but only seven per cent do so. It is really simple to leave a gift to charity in your will. Visit www.lcdisability.org or call 020 3242 0311 to find out more.

Ingrid Ambrose, Leonard Cheshire Disability

Reader Holidays

WARNER FREE BAR BREAKS - JUST FOR ADULTS

Signature room at Bembridge Coast

Mamma Mia Christmas Party - Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

3 NIGHTS FROM £259pp

Friday 12 to 15 Nov, 2010

CODE MM11-KOS

LAST FEW PLACES

Join us for a Christmas party where the name of the game is fun. We're rekindling the 70s & 80s when Abba's songs were on everyone's lips. There's also a fireworks display.

INCLUDES: Free Bar 6pm to 11pm daily - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Car ferry • Entertainment including a Mamma Mia the Movie screening, Abba tribute act & fireworks display • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

FREE BAR | FREE CAR FERRY | OVER 50s ONLY

Christmas Party - Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

We're throwing an early Christmas party with a fun-filled festive theme which will include Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and a Free Bar every day.

INCLUDES: Free Bar 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Dinners & Breakfasts • Entertainment every night • En-suite chalet with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Return Car Ferry

3 NIGHTS FROM £199pp

Friday 5 to 8 Nov, 2010

CODE NG11-2-KOS

FREE BAR | FREE CAR FERRY | OVER 40s ONLY

Mamma Mia Party - Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

3 NIGHTS FROM £239pp

Friday 25 to 28 Feb, 2011

CODE MW2-KOS

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're rekindling the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips.

INCLUDES: Free Bar 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Dinners & Breakfasts • Entertainment including a Mamma Mia movie screening • Abba Tribute Band • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Return Car Ferry

FREE BAR | FREE CAR FERRY | OVER 50s ONLY

Carry on New Year Party - Sinah Warren, Hayling Island

Extend the New Year celebrations at Sinah Warren, Warner's luxury hotel on Hayling Island. Enjoy live entertainment every night and Free Drinks.

INCLUDES: Free Bar 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Dinners & Breakfasts • Entertainment every night • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

3 NIGHTS FROM £229pp

Friday 7 to 10 Jan, 2011

CODE WS1-KOS

FREE BAR | OVER 40s ONLY

Mamma Mia Party - Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales

3 NIGHTS FROM £299pp

Friday 25 to 28 Mar, 2011

CODE BC3-KOS

Join us for a unique Mamma Mia Party in beautiful North Wales. Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel will resound to the sights and sounds of Abba.

INCLUDES: FREE BAR 6pm to 11pm daily - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Entertainment including a Mamma Mia the Movie screening and Abba tribute act • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

FREE BAR | OVER 50s ONLY

Come Dancing Party - Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

Join us for a weekend of ballroom and Latin dancing, tuition for beginners and improvers, top dancers in cabaret, a Grand Ball & variety entertainment. There's plenty going on for non-dancers too.

INCLUDES: FREE BAR 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Car ferry • Full programme of entertainment & Dancing in association with Philip Wylie of Holiday & Dance • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

3 NIGHTS FROM £259pp

Friday 14 to 17 Jan, 2011

CODE WB1-KOS

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SPAN MAN: Daniel Thorpe

Daniel bridges gap

A TRAINEE bridge engineer has been taken on by one of the oldest charities in the country to work on three of Kent's landmarks.

Daniel Thorpe, 29, was appointed by the Rochester Bridge Trust and will work on the two road bridges and the service bridge over the River Medway.

The trust was formed at the end of the 14th century and is responsible for building and maintaining bridges in the area.

Mr Thorpe, a former Chatham Grammar School for Boys pupil, said: "I've always wanted to be an engineer and I've always wanted to work on a major construction which people see every day."

Work and study proves successful

A HIGHER education course giving students the opportunity to study while they work has proved popular with both the public and private sector.

The University of Kent's BA in applied professional practice sees undergraduates studying part-time at the Medway or Canterbury campuses while employed.

Dr Christine Eastman, degree programme acting director, said: "We have students who are employed by the NHS, John Lewis, and the university itself and who work in a range of professions from midwives to administrators.

"Employers recognise the benefits study can bring to their workforce: a deeper understanding of the role, confidence, improved reading and writing skills, a clearer sense of purpose and the ability to contribute to one's place of work in a more assertive, knowledgeable way."

Students study on a part-time basis over six years, or four with a summer-term component, to gain a certificate, diploma or full degree.

To find out more about the course, contact Dr Eastman at C.A.Eastman@kent.ac.uk or call on 01634 888968.

Grammar school starts internships

A NEW internship programme is being launched at Folkestone Grammar School for Girls with support from EDF Energy's Dungeness power station.

Some 150 16-year-old pupils were given a talk by industrial safety engineer Terry Mosley at Dungeness B about health and safety in the workplace ahead of their internship programme, where they will spend one day a week with a local company for six months.

Mr Mosley said: "Dungeness B was pleased to support the new internship programme by spreading some key messages about safety in the workplace."

Training skills offer is food for thought

Skills council seeks industry experts for steering group

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FOOD and drink manufacturers in Kent are being invited to help shape a new training programme aimed at bringing more young people into the industry.

The scheme is being run by skills council Improve which has secured government backing to develop the Food and Drink Sector Routeway Programme in a bid to tackle the shortage of school-leavers choosing a career in the sector.

Industry insiders are expecting a high demand for new recruits in the coming years – around 8,000 in the South East by 2017 – as the ageing workforce begins to retire.

Employers are being invited to join a steering group to oversee the development of the programme, which will be funded by the Department for Work and Pensions' Young Person's Guarantee initiative, to make sure it is relevant to the needs of the industry.

Once set up, the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink Manufacturing will deliver the training, involving two- or eight-week courses.

The two-week course will include basic employability skills, health and safety, food safety, food handling and operations practice.

The eight-week course will be more in-depth, with individual training and development plans focusing on specialist skills and on-the-job training.

Trainees will also be able to gain credits towards full qualifications.

Justine Fosh, director of skills solutions for Improve and the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink Manufacturing, said: "We are at an early stage, with just the outline of the programme agreed in principle.

"But what is so promising about it is that it will not just be about getting young people off the unemployment list.

"We will be developing high-quality training aimed at preparing them for long-term employment and fulfilling the skills needs of the companies they work for.

"That is why it is important for us to have employers on board shaping the programme to ensure we are developing the right skills in the right way to make employing young people a viable and attractive option for companies.

OPTIMISTIC: Improve's Justine Fosh says the programme will offer high-quality training

"Demand for more highly skilled workers is rising rapidly and it is important we use this programme to lay the right foundations for young people to develop and progress."

To get involved in shaping the programme, contact Liz Pattison at L.Pattison@foodanddrink.nsacademy.co.uk.

For further information, go to www.improve-skills.co.uk.

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 73

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MOTOR TRADE AFTERSALES OPPORTUNITIES AT KAP MOTORGROUP

Due to the complete refurbishment of our Folkestone branch we need to fill the following vacancies.

Workshop Controller
We require the services of a qualified technician to run our busy multi franchise workshop. Previous experience in this role would be preferred but not essential, the successful candidate needs to be energetic, have good technical knowledge, be able to organise a very busy workshop, have basic IT skills and leadership qualities.

Service Advisor
An experienced Service Advisor is needed for our busy front counter. Experience in one of our franchises would be beneficial but not essential. The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure and have good people skills. The role includes serving customers on a day to day basis and advising on work required so some mechanical knowledge would be an advantage.

Customer Care Assistant
This role involves maintaining our excellent customer satisfaction index, calling customers to book MOTs and services. Contacting customers after they have visited KAP to ensure they our happy with any work carried out by us and are completely satisfied. Running daily CSI and workshop diary reports. The successful applicant would need to have basic IT skills with a good knowledge of excel, and have a good phone manner with an upbeat personality.

Parts Assistant
This role requires sourcing and distribution of parts for our busy workshop and dealing with retail enquiries from the front parts counter. Ford experience would be a distinct advantage but not essential. The successful applicant would need to be hard working, honest and have some knowledge of the motor parts industry with the flexibility to work on weekends.

The successful applicants for the above positions will be working for a well established multi-franchise dealership, benefits include a generous remuneration package and a fantastic opportunity to further their career within the motor industry.

To apply please contact Lynda Brazier on 01303249656 or email lynda.brazier@kapmotorgroup.co.uk

Shorncliffe Motor Park, Ross Way, Folkestone CT20 3UJ

KAP Motor Group
www.kapmotorgroup.co.uk

CANTERBURY cathedral

IT TECHNICIAN - Webmaster
(Ref 104 AIT 0710)
Full or Part time considered

We are looking to recruit an IT professional with a keen interest & experience in web development and design (particularly ASP.NET, HTML, CSS and MSSQL) to join our small but busy IT team. In addition to working on the Cathedral's various websites / bespoke software, there will also be the opportunity to develop projects which will benefit the Cathedral Community. With tasks varying from day-to-day, you will be given the opportunity to work with the latest technologies and broaden your existing knowledge. This is a wide ranging, hands-on role that requires a good all-round aptitude for IT, plenty of enthusiasm, demands initiative, flexibility and good interpersonal skills to allow you to determine user requirements.

Please request an application pack by either visiting our website www.canterbury-cathedral.org/community/vacancies.aspx sending a SAE to: Human Resources,11 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EH or email recruitment@canterbury-cathedral.org

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is
Thursday 7th October 2010

Accounts Assistant

A flexible accounts person is required for a varied role within the accounts department of this successful company. Key elements are subcontractor accounting,book-keeping, reconciliations and ad-hoc assignments plus the ability to cover other peoples work when required

Salary negotiable depending on experience.

Monday to Friday 9.00am until 5.30pm.

Please send CV's to Alistair Mackay-Miller, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk.

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Children's Support Worker – Sunlight Project, East Kent

Full and part time considered • £21,519 - £27,849 plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239 (salary and benefits pro-rata for part time)

KCA Young Persons' Services provide specialist substance misuse services for children, young people, their families and carers. The Sunlight Project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, offers support to children from substance misusing families in Swale, Dover, Thanet and Ashford.

We require a support worker to deliver our group work programmes aimed at 7–13 year old children who are affected by someone else's misuse of substances. The groups promote emotional and psychological well-being through structured sessions. The project works closely with Children's Social Services, schools and other children's services.

You will need experience of working with vulnerable children and delivering group work interventions. Ideally you will also have a sound knowledge of substance misuse issues.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk, email recruitment@kca.org.uk or telephone 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote ref 709.

Closing date: 1 October 2010 at 5.00pm. Interview date: 19 October 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

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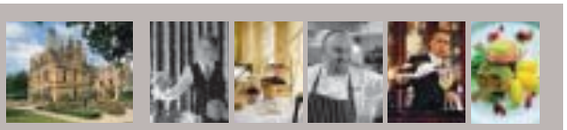

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Hours are flexible (to be agreed in advance), spread over five days, Monday - Friday.

Please apply with CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk

Closing date: 4th October 2010.

www.handpicked.co.uk

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Saint George's

Church of England School Humanities College
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Wide Ability School

CARETAKER

(Full time post – 37 hours per week)
Salary Kent Scheme Band 4 Points 11 -14 (£15,984 to £16,793 pa)

General maintenance and caretaking duties, working alternate shift patterns:
Week A 05:00 to 14:00 (3/5 days) and 05:00 to 13:30 (2/5 days)
Week B 13:00 to 22:00 (3/5 days), 13:30 to 22:00 (1/5 days) and 13:30 to 19:30 (1/5 days).

Good team working skills and the ability to interact positively with students are essential.

Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact the school to request further details (stating which post you are interested in) and an application form
(Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk)
or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Please quote job reference **KOSC1** on your application.

Closing date for applications: 21 September 2010

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Engineering Manager to take full responsibility for the day to day running of the engineering function which operates 24 hours each day. The successful applicant will have extensive workshop experience and an appropriate Automotive engineering qualification. Experience in the bus and coach industry is an advantage. You must be fully conversant with the appropriate VOSA and Health and Safety regulations and best practice.

Also required, **Bus** and **Coach fitters**.

To apply for both positions, please send CV to either
Mr Tim Lambkin, Travelmasters, Dorset Road, Industrial Estate, Sheerness, Kent. ME12 1LT
Or by email to: **Tim@travel-masters.co.uk**

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ideally with property lettings and/or debt management experience. Good IT and secretarial skills a must and be able to work on own initiative. Pleasant personality required. F/T or P/T to be discussed. Full ongoing training will be given.

Send your CV by the 1st October 2010 to:
Family Homes, 68 Milton High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 2AN
or email to sunil.popat@virgin.net

Senior Care Assistant

Required to work in a residential home in Faversham for the elderly.
Must have NVQ3 (or working towards) and 2 years experience at supervisory level. 35 to 40 hours on rota basis

For further details please call **01795 532629**

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Kimberley Stevens
tel: 0845 270 2881
Or alternatively
email: kim@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk

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Salaried positions are avialable on PM,s and Nights on a fixed shift pattern involving weekends. Salaries vary from £25K to £28K plus 28 days annual leave
Work will involve primarily Supermarkets in Allington Aylesford and Snodland plus some general haulage. No nights out.
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Please call 01795 418100 or
e-mail graham.knowles@recruitandtrain.com

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- Driver essential

Normal hours - Mon to Fri, (but some flexibility may be required to meet the needs of the service) plus on call
Salary dependent on qualifications & experience £18,000-£22,000 p.a.

Closing date for application 1 October 2010

For an application form & job description
please phone **Jennifer** on **01797 363550**
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You will need to be at ease talking to the public and capable of working under your own initiative, and be of smart appearance, as you will become a representative of our award winning company.

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If interested, please contact Sorcha or Barbara on 01303 817072

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Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication and presentation skills, tenacity, and the ability to build business relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner.

You might also be looking to enter media as a career within sales and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

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Jason Pyne, Development Director
KOS Media, Apple Barn,
Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
Or by email: jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

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PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE REQUIRE

MOTOR VEHICLE INSTRUCTOR

Salary: Dependent on experience

This is an exciting opportunity to help lead and develop this new initiative which had its first student intake in September 2010. The motor vehicle centre which has just opened is state of the art with brand new equipment including 2 vehicle lifts, an ICT lab, wheel balancing and a workshop, a storeroom and a classroom.

The successful candidate will be an individual who has experience of teaching within this sector and who has a vision as to how Pent Valley Technology College can provide real life applied learning experiences for its students in the motor vehicle industry.

Good interpersonal skills are extremely important. This position is suitable for an energetic person who enjoys being with teenagers and can cope with a busy learning environment.

CLERK TO GOVERNORS

Hours: Flexible
Salary: Kent Scheme 7 (£20,262-£23,053 pro rata per annum)
Responsible to: Chair of Governors

We are seeking a confident individual to provide clerical support to our school's governing body. You will need good listening, literacy, communication and organisational skills. You will be working from home and school for a minimum of 2 hours per week rising to 12/15 hours per week during busy periods; therefore you will need to be very flexible. Your duties will include arranging meetings, agendas and taking minutes. You will be responsible for keeping mandatory records up to date, receiving and circulating correspondence plus other administrative and clerking duties as required.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact: Miss S Spratley
Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Closing Date: 23rd September 2010
Interviews: to be confirmed

achievement for all

Ursuline College

225 Canterbury Road
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Phone 01843 834431 Fax 01843 835365
info@ursuline.kent.sch.uk

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Kent Scheme Payscale 3/4

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We are seeking an experienced administration assistant to join our highly successful and over-subscribed College, to work with and support a hardworking, dedicated and friendly team of professionals.

The successful applicant will possess excellent communication skills with the confidence and ability to deal with students, staff and parents. Good IT skills are needed as well as a flexible approach to working hours to meet the operational demands of the organisation. You should enjoy working as part of a team, be able to work using your own initiative and have a track record of being able to successfully handle a number of conflicting priorities simultaneously. Previous school experience is an advantage but not essential as full training will be given.

Please apply for an application pack via e-mail to: lsimmons@ursuline.kent.sch.uk or in writing to Mrs L Simmons, School Bursar. Visits to the College are encouraged.

Closing date: Friday 1st October 2010

Interviews to be held W/c 4th October 2010

Ursuline College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff/ volunteers to share this commitment.

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CHRIST THE KING SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status.

Applications are invited for the following posts to start in October 2010

CHRIST THE KING COLLEGE: ST MARY'S (SIDCUP)

CURRICULUM LEADER FOR SCIENCE £41,180-£43,701 inclusive

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a popular department at this Beacon College. You will oversee the work of a team of staff and manage the learning of students taking courses in A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Science and GCSE.

Whether you are an experienced leader or a colleague seeking promotion to such a post for the first time, you should be passionate about education and supporting the achievement of young people. You should set high standards for yourself and others, and have produced excellent results in your subject.

If you have a successful track record in this curriculum area and are keen to develop your career in a post-16 environment, we would very much welcome your application.

PART TIME TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/Threshold is also paid as appropriate

We are looking to appoint a talented, enthusiastic teacher to deliver Psychology and Sociology up to A Level, with the ability to teach BTEC First and Applied Level Health and Social Care in addition. You will work over two to three days and will be part of a supportive team of teachers.

PART TIME TEACHER OF BIOLOGY £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/Threshold is also paid as appropriate

An opportunity has arisen to join the Science team on this site, specialising in the delivery of AS/A2 Biology over one or two days. You should be an enthusiastic, motivated colleague who has the ability to support students in achieving their potential in this subject area.

PART TIME LAY CHAPLAIN £24,761- £29,221 inclusive (pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint a new member of our highly accomplished Chaplaincy Team. You will work mainly at St Mary's, with flexibility across both sites, from 10.00 am - 2.30 pm over 5 days per week for 40 weeks per year. Salary is based upon qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be a practising Catholic with excellent interpersonal, communication and organisational skills.

PART TIME CAREERS GUIDANCE OFFICER £26,802 inclusive (pro rata)

You will work three days per week, initially two days at St Mary's and one day at Lewisham. You will be able to provide high quality, current HE and careers advice. The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and organisational skills.

FITNESS AND SPORTS INSTRUCTOR £15,770 inclusive (pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, energetic and flexible sports coordinator who will be involved with sports enrichment activities at the St Mary's site. This would include running the College's new fitness suite and a recognised fitness qualification is essential. The successful candidate should be able to engage with and motivate 16-18 year old learners. This post will be for one term in the first instance, from 9.00 am – 4.30 pm over 5 days per week.

There is a pay review pending at 1st September 2010

For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact:

The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BE

Telephone: 020 8309 4760 Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

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Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 24.9.2010

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  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Life and Employability**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Leader – Trowel Trades**
  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
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  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
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- **Trowel Trades Technician**
  Salary scale: £7,990 - £8,896 for 18.5 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

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EMAIL: office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk - WEBSITE: www.fiveacrewood.org.uk

Paediatric Specialist Physiotherapist

Five Acre Wood is a successful outward looking and expanding school currently with 166 pupils aged 4-19 years with profound severe and complex needs. The school will be expanding to provide for 210 pupils.

We have a vacancy for a term time only Physiotherapist, working 32½ hours a week.
Pay will be on Kent Scheme Bands 8/9 (equivalent to NHS Band 6).
Our future colleague will:
Be a very good practitioner and effective communicator
Have a desire to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential
Have a commitment to working closely with families and with colleagues
Be excited by the prospect of working in an expanding community
We will offer you:
Inspiring and enthusiastic pupils - The opportunity to help to shape the future school
Openness and support from caring colleagues - A creative and innovative environment

If this opportunity is for you please contact Maria on 01622 743925 for an information pack.
Closing date: Friday 24th September 2010 - Interview date to be arranged
Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB
Five Acre Wood is an Equal Opportunities employer.
Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.

Paediatric Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Five Acre Wood is a successful outward looking and expanding school currently with 166 pupils aged 4-19 years with profound severe and complex needs. The school will be expanding to provide for 210 pupils.

We have a vacancy for a term time only Speech and Language Therapist, working 32½ hours a week.
Pay will be on Kent Scheme Bands 8/9 (equivalent to NHS Band 6).
Our future colleague will:
Be a very good practitioner and effective communicator
Have a desire to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential
Have a commitment to working closely with families and with colleagues
Be excited by the prospect of working in an expanding community
We will offer you:
Inspiring and enthusiastic pupils - The opportunity to help to shape the future school
Openness and support from caring colleagues - A creative and innovative environment

If this opportunity is for you please contact Maria on 01622 743925 for an information pack.
Closing date: Friday 24th September 2010 - Interview date to be arranged
Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB.
Five Acre Wood is an Equal Opportunities employer.
Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.

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Accountancy

Jobs in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks
Salary £neg
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1699

Accountant

Folkestone
Salary From £25k p.a.
Do you have the commitment to Folkestone's regeneration that we need at the heart of our organisation? Do you have the breadth of accountancy skills to thrive in a busy and varied environment? The Creative Foundation organises arts festivals and manages a property portfolio through its charitable arm, and controls the trading arm which runs Quarterhouse, a multi-arts venue. We need an experienced Accountant, at least part qualified, to join our Finance Director and Accounts Assistant, to provide accounting support from basic input through to credit control and monthly management reporting. For more information about our work, please see www.creativefoundation.org.uk www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk www.quarterhouse.co.uk
For more details about the job and application process, please see: http://www.creative foundation.org.uk/job_opportunities1.html. We have retained Year One Consulting to support this recruitment; you can call them on 01227 811 777 for an informal discussion. Closing date: 12noon 1st October 2010Interviews: w/c 11th October 2010 We welcome applicants from all sectors of the community.

Accounts Assistant

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
Accounts Assistant. A flexible accounts person is required for a varied role within the accounts department of this successful company.Key elements are subcontractor accounting,book-keeping,reconciliations and ad-hoc assignments plus the ability to cover other peoples work when required. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Monday to Friday 9.00am until 5.30pm. Please send CV's to Alistair Mackay-Miller, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail to ron@ piperwindows.co.uk. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Jobs in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks
Salary £neg
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1699

Office Assistant

Tunbridge Wells
Salary Starting Salary £11,000 DRAKES PLUMBING SUPPLIES LTD TUNBRIDGE WELLS FULL TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT We are looking for an organised individual to join our busy Accounts Office team. Duties will include checking, matching, inputting and filing supplier invoices and credits, liaising with suppliers, and other general office duties. Computer literacy and full clean driving licence are essential. Starting salary £11,000. Please call Alisoun Aisher or Pat Bonner for an application form on 01892 55 99 15, or e-mail mail@drakes.biz
No agencies or canvassing

Administrator

Bearsted
Salary Competitive Rate of Pay
To apply/more information:
Barty House Nursing Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Litigation Secretary

Gravesend
Salary Negotiable
Martin Tolhurst Solicitors in Gravesend are looking to recruit a full time experienced Litigation Secretary. Please apply enclosing CV and covering letter to Cathanne Craigie - Personnel ManagerMartin Tolhurst Partnership LLP7 Wrotham Road Gravesend Kent DA11 0PD Email - ccraigie@ martintolhurst.co.ukTelephone - 01474 546018 Closing date 17 September 2010

Part-time Customer Relations Manager

Sevenoaks
Salary £23,500 pro rata
Part-time Customer Relations Manager £23,500 pro rata20 - 30 hours per week (flexible) | Sevenoaks Working as part of a small team at our Head Office in Sevenoaks, we are seeking a confident and pro-active individual with an outgoing and professional manner to deliver a first-class service in resolving any guest complaints promptly and fairly. You will liaise closely with our hotel teams and will need to possess the ability to influence senior colleagues. As well as strong organisational skills you must possess strong written and oral communication skills. Your natural approach is polite, tactful, friendly and assertive. Problem solving and decision making will assist in your ability to handle complaints and difficult situations. You will maintain the database so computer literacy is essential and as our business is multi-site and speed is important, much of the work is telephone and e-mail based. In addition, you will be required to provide general administration support and assistance to the office team. Hand Picked Hotels is a collection of 17 luxury country house hotels throughout the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. With welcoming and charming service delivered in the inspirational surroundings of magnificent country house hotels, our guests are encouraged to feel at home, relax, kick off their shoes and indulge! Not only are we famous for fantastic buildings and locations, but we are also creating an enviable reputation for high standards of food and drink recognised by the achievement of AA Rosettes in all of our 17 hotels. The role is a temporary position covering maternity leave. Hours are flexible (to be agreed in advance), spread over five days, Monday-Friday. To apply, please forward your CV with covering letter detailing your current remuneration package to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@ handpicked.co.uk or by post to: Hand Picked Hotels Ltd, The Old Library, The Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AB. Closing date for applications is 4th October 2010. www.handpicked.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Chef

Sittingbourne
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Upchurch River Valley Golf Course Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Bexley Heath
Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Waitstaff required for restaurant in Bexley Heath. Would suit someone looking to advance their career. Must have necessary qualifications. For more information tel. Bobby 07790924436 or info@ thebankrestaurantandbar.co.uk

Waitstaff

Bexley Heath
Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Waitstaff required for restaurant in Bexley Heath. Would suit someone looking to advance their career. Must have necessary qualifications. For more information tel. Bobby 07790924436 or info@ thebankrestaurantandbar.co.uk

Waiting Staff

Faversham
Salary Negotiable
Martin's Restaurant Near Faversham require Part time waiting staff 2 or 3 sessions per week Silver Service preferred but not essential as training given For more information please contact Paul or Julie - Tel: 01227 750304

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TRAINEE SALES PEOPLE

West Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
blacktie@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality

Thanet
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Lecturer in Catering and HospitalitySalary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Fresh Fish Manager

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
Due to a restructure within the business, a fresh fish manager is now required at J Seafoods, Maidstone. Duties will include all areas of picking and preparation of wet fish, following company procedures, policies and current Health and Safety legislation Experience is essential within the industry together with management skills in leading a small team. For more information please contact Wayne on 01622 815100

Child Care

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

4 x Care Assistants Needed!!

Medway/Maidstone
Salary £8 - £11.00 per hour (depending on shift times) 4 x Care Assistants Needed in the Medway and Maidstone Area. We are a Multi-Award Winning Agency with a passion for both serving Clients and Candidates in a fair manner. You must be in receipt of either a qualification or a minimum of 2 years experiance with working in Residential, Nursing, EMI homes or with Adults with Learning Difficulties. A Driving License is a bonus but not essential. The position requires thorough referencing and an enhanced police disclosure. Any offer of employment is subject to these being deemed satisfactory. Pay is between £8.00 and £11.00 per hour depending on shift times. Please indicate any interest by submitting your C.V. This advert has been placed by The Sense Partnership, part of Education Sense Ltd.

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED

Kent
Salary £115 per day
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

Paediatric Specialist Physiotherapist

Maidstone
Salary NHS Band 6
To apply/more information:
Five Acre Wood Special School
office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Curtain Wall Fixers

Hastings
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
NA Curtain Walling Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Bricklayers

Kent
Salary Negotiable
BRICKLAYERS Required Minimum of 5 years experience Local and London work Wages and hours to be discussed Must have CSCS For more information please call Brian on 0845 5213236

Customer Service, Call Centre

Part-time Customer Relations Manager

Sevenoaks
Salary £23,500 pro rata
Part-time Customer Relations Manager £23,500 pro rata20 - 30 hours per week (flexible) | Sevenoaks. Working as part of a small team at our Head Office in Sevenoaks, we are seeking a confident and pro-active individual with an outgoing and professional manner to deliver a first-class service in resolving any guest complaints promptly and fairly. You will liaise closely with our hotel teams and will need to possess the ability to influence senior colleagues. As well as strong organisational skills you must possess strong written and oral communication skills. Your natural approach is polite, tactful, friendly and assertive. Problem solving and decision making will assist in your ability to handle complaints and difficult situations. You will maintain the database so computer literacy is essential and as our business is multi-site and speed is important, much of the work is telephone and e-mail based. In addition, you will be required to provide general administration support and assistance to the office team. Hand Picked Hotels is a collection of 17 luxury country house hotels throughout the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. With welcoming and charming service delivered in the inspirational surroundings of magnificent country house hotels, our guests are encouraged to feel at home, relax, kick off their shoes and indulge! Not only are we famous for fantastic buildings and locations, but we are also creating an enviable reputation for high standards of food and drink recognised by the achievement of AA Rosettes in all of our 17 hotels. The role is a temporary position covering maternity leave. Hours are flexible (to be agreed in advance), spread over five days, Monday-Friday. To apply, please forward your CV with covering letter detailing your current remuneration package to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@ handpicked.co.uk or by post to: Hand Picked Hotels Ltd, The Old Library, The Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AB. Closing date for applications is 4th October 2010. www.handpicked.co.uk

Customer Care Assistant

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
Due to the complete refurbishment of our Folkestonebranch we need to fill the following vacancies. Customer Care AssistantThis role involves maintaining our excellent customersatisfaction index, calling customers to book MOTs andservices. Contacting customers after they have visitedKAP to ensure they our happy with any work carried outby us and are completely satisfied. Running daily CSI andworkshop diary reports. The successful applicant wouldneed to have basic IT skills with a good knowledge ofexcel, and have a good phone manner with an upbeatpersonality. The successful applicants for the above positions will beworking for a well established multi-franchise dealership,benefits include a generous remuneration package anda fantastic opportunity to further their career within themotor industry. To apply please contact Lynda Brazier on 01303 249656or email lynda.brazier@kapmotorgroup.co.ukShorncliffe Motor Park, Ross Way, Folkestone CT20 3UJ

Domestic

Private Domestic Cleaners

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
House Fairies (The)
thehousefairies@tiscali.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Early Morning Cleaners

Canterbury
Salary Good rates of pay
Early morning cleaners required, For retail store Canterbury. Good rates of pay, to apply Please call 01543 418855

CARETAKER

Gravesend
Salary £15,984 to £16,793 pa
To apply/more information:
Saint George's C of E School
dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOSC1

Domestic Trades

Bathroom Installer

Swale
Salary Competitive
Bathroom Installer Required on a C.I.S. Basis Must be able to plum (No Push Fit) and tile to the highest standards. Must also be able to install bathroom furniture and undertake bathroom related carpentry work also to the highest standards. Majority of work is in the swale area Must have proof of previous work and references will be required. Competitive rates Email applications to dave.geere@sepd.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

HEAD TEACHER

Chatham
Salary Salary Scale: L1 – L18
To apply/more information:
St Johns CE Infants School
office@stjohns.medway.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

ALL SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS

Kent
Salary Great Rates + Loyalty Scheme
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: ASEN

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED

Kent
Salary £115 per day
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Medway
Salary £15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata
We are currently looking for... TEACHING ASSISTANTS to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team. Medway Scale, Grade D2 £15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata+ SEN Allowance (£1,177) Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us. Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided. Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post. This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure. For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236) Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 24.9.10

Paediatric Specialist Physiotherapist

Maidstone
Salary NHS Band 6
To apply/more information:
Five Acre Wood Special School
office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Paediatric Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Five Acre Wood Special School
office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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CURRICULUM LEADER FOR SCIENCE

Sidcup
Salary £41,180-£43,701
Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status. Applications are invited for the following posts to start in October 2010 CHRIST THE KING COLLEGE: ST MARY'S (SIDCUP) CURRICULUM LEADER FOR SCIENCE £41,180-£43,701 inclusiveThis is an exciting opportunity to lead a popular department at this Beacon College. You will oversee the work of a team of staff and manage the learning of students taking courses in A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Science and GCSE. Whether you are an experienced leader or a colleague seeking promotion to such a post for the first time, you should be passionate about education and supporting the achievement of young people. You should set high standards for yourself and others, and have produced excellent results in your subject. If you have a successful track record in this curriculum area and are keen to develop your career in a post-16 environment, we would very much welcome your application. For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact:The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BETelephone: 020 8309 4760Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Sidcup
Salary £24,687 - £34,468 **To apply/more information:**
Christ the King St Marys
dba@ctksfc.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

PART TIME TEACHER OF BIOLOGY

Sidcup
Salary £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata)
Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status. PART TIME TEACHER OF BIOLOGY £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/ Threshold is also paid as appropriateAn opportunity has arisen to join the Science team on this site, specialising in the delivery of AS/A2 Biology over one or two days. You should be an enthusiastic, motivated colleague who has the ability to support students in achieving their potential in this subject area. For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact: The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BETelephone: 020 8309 4760Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

LAY CHAPLAIN

Sidcup
Salary £24,761- £29,221 inclusive (pro rata)
Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status. PART TIME LAY CHAPLAIN £24,761- £29,221 inclusive (pro rata)We are seeking to appoint a new member of our highly accomplished Chaplaincy Team. You will work mainly at St Mary's, with flexibility across both sites, from 10.00 am - 2.30 pm over 5 days per week for 40 weeks per year. Salary is based upon qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be a practising Catholic with excellent

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interpersonal, communication and organisational skills. For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact: The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BE Telephone: 020 8309 4760Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk
Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

CAREERS GUIDANCE OFFICER

Sidcup
Salary £26,802 inclusive (pro rata) Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status. PART TIME CAREERS GUIDANCE OFFICER £26,802 inclusive (pro rata)You will work three days per week, initially two days at St Mary's and one day at Lewisham. You will be able to provide high quality, current HE and careers advice. The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and organisational skills. For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact: The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BETelephone: 020 8309 4760Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk
Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

FITNESS AND SPORTS INSTRUCTOR

Sidcup
Salary £15,770 inclusive (pro rata)
Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status. FITNESS AND SPORTS INSTRUCTOR £15,770 inclusive (pro rata)We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, energetic and flexible sports coordinator who will be involved with sports enrichment activities at the St Mary's site. This would include running the College's new fitness suite and a recognised fitness qualification is essential. The successful candidate should be able to engage with and motivate 16-18 year old learners. This post will be for one term in the first instance, from 9.00 am - 4.30 pm over 5 days per week. There is a pay review pending at 1st September 2010. For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact: The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BETelephone: 020 8309 4760Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk
Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Casual Drivers for School Mini-Bus

East Malling
Salary £14099 - £15984 pa Casual Drivers for School Mini-BusKent Scheme 3 - £14099 - £15984 pa(which equates to £7.31 to £8.28 per hour) We are looking to appoint a bank of drivers who we can call upon on a casual basis to drive our students to various venues. Times and days will vary according to the requirements of the students. A full clean driving licence is essential and relevant training will be given to successful candidates. For an application form please contact the school office on 01732 840995, download from the opportunities link of our website: www.mhfederation.co.uk or email elaine.greenwood@mhfederation.co.uk. Completed applications should be returned to Elaine Greenwood, Federation Personnel Manager, The Malling School, Beech Road, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6DH or emailed to the above address. The Malling School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and this post is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure check. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 22 September 2010.

CARETAKER

Gravesend
Salary £15,984 to £16,793 pa CARETAKER(Full time post - 37 hours per week)Salary Kent Scheme Band 4 Points 11 -14 (£15,984 to £16,793 pa)General maintenance and caretaking duties, working alternate shift patterns:Week A 05:00 to 14:00 (3/5 days) and 05:00 to 13:30 (2/5 days)Week B 13:00 to 22:00 (3/5 days), 13:30 to 22:00 (1/5 days)and 13:30 to 19:30 (1/5 days).Good team working skills and the ability to interact positively with students are essential.Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.Please contact the school to request further details (stating which post you are interested in) and an application form (Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk)or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk Please quote job reference KOSC1 on your application.
Closing date for applications: 21 September 2010.
To apply/more information:
Saint George's C of E School
dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOSC1

Lecturer in Community Education

Thanet
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Lecturer in Community EducationSalary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Lecturer in ESOL

Thanet
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Lecturer in ESOLSalary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

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01303 817040

Lecturer in Life and Employability

Thanet
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Lecturer in Life and EmployabilitySalary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality

Thanet
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Lecturer in Catering and HospitalitySalary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Programme Leader – Trowel Trades

Thanet
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Programme Leader - Trowel TradesSalary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Programme Leader – Hair

Thanet
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Programme Leader - HairSalary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Programme Leader – Foundation Life and Employability

Thanet
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Programme Leader - Foundation Life and Employability(Entry)Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Trowel Trades Technician

Thanet
Salary £7,990 - £8,896
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Trowel Trades TechnicianSalary scale: £7,990 - £8,896 for 18.5 hours per week all year. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Lecturer In Engineering

Thanet
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Lecturer in EngineeringSalary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Vehicle Technician

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
BAILEYS NISSAN Require a vehicle technician,Nissan Experiance & Mot tester an Advantage but not essential. Contact David Jackson -Service Manager 01227 766777 david.jackson@baileysnissan.co.uk

R&D Manager

Margate
Salary £49-55K + Benefits
TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer for Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets. We are looking for 4 candidates to work as part of a growing R&D team located in East Kent, primarily focused on High Definition video conversion systems based around our proprietary CORIO® technology. Primarily responsible for the Project, Product and Personnel Management of the R&D Department including Customer liaison for OEM products and bespoke design. Key Skills: Experience in Team Leading/Management of R&D team; Good Project Management skills; Good Systems Design knowledge To apply contact: Amanda Holges, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach,Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG Tel: 01843 873300 recruit.europe@tvone.com http://www.tvone.eu

Windows Software Engineer

Margate
Salary £39-45K
TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer for Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets. We are looking for 4 candidates to work as part of a growing R&D team located in East Kent, primarily focused on High Definition video conversion systems based around our proprietary CORIO® technology. Primarily responsible for the design and development of Windows & Web based technologies to control our range of video processing products. Key Skills: Fluent in Visual studio C# / Visual Basic; Experience of designing GUI's with timeline functionality; Web Development. To apply contact: Amanda Holges, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach,Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG Tel: 01843 873300 recruit.europe@tvone.com http://www.tvone.eu

Hardware Design Engineer

Margate
Salary £39-45K
TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer for Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets. We are looking for 4 candidates to work as part of a growing R&D team located in East Kent, primarily focused on High Definition video conversion systems based around our proprietary CORIO® technology. Primarily responsible for Initiating and progressing development of the Schematic & PCB designs from concept to production & compliance with EMC & safety standards. Key Skills: Experience in Digital & Analogue design, preferably incorporating video technologies; Experience of schematic entry and multilayer PCB design for complete design cycle from concept to production release. To apply contact: Amanda Holges, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach,Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG Tel: 01843 873300 recruit.europe@tvone.com http://www.tvone.eu

Experienced Fabricators x 2

Maidstone
Salary Good Rates of Pay
To apply/more information:
Leay
lorraine.harris@leay.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Estimator

Maidstone
Salary Competitive Package
To apply/more information:
Leay
lorraine.harris@leay.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Service Advisor

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
KAP (Kent Auto Panels) Ltd
lynda.brazier@kapmotorgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Bus and Coach fitters

Sheerness
Salary Negotiable
Engineering Manager to take fullresponsibility for the day to day runningof the engineering function which operates24 hours each day.The successful applicant will have extensiveworkshop experience and an appropriateAutomotive engineering qualification. Experience in the bus and coach industry is an advantage.You must be fully conversant with the appropriate VOSAand Health and Safety regulations and best practice.Also required, Bus and Coach fitters.To apply for both positions, please send CV to either Mr Tim Lambkin, Travelmasters,Dorset Road,Industrial Estate, Sheerness,Kent. ME12 1LT Or by email to: Tim@travel-masters.co.uk

Demand Planner

West Kent
Salary c£28,000
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1700

Health & Beauty

HAIRSTYLIST

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
ANTONIOU Hair and Beauty Require HAIRSTYLIST (minimum 4 years experience)
Tel: 01233 633171

Experienced Hair Stylists

Medway
Salary TBC
En-Vi EXPERIENCED HAIR STYLISTS (male and female) required for Salon. Contact Claire on 01634 840880 or email claire1ice@hotmail.co.uk

Programme Leader – Hair

Thanet
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available: Programme Leader - HairSalary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on ‘Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052 Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

Qualified Hairstylist

Sheerness
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Beez Neez
dainesa@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Hair Stylist

Folkestone & Tonbridge
Salary Negotiable
Design-A-Head
Require an experienced hair stylist for their salons in Tonbridge and Folkestone. Please call Tony Charlton for an interview
01732469949/01732770795

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/02861/OUT **Wyndhurst The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Outline (Access and Landscaping reserved): Three bedroom chalet style dwelling (CA)

10/02937/LBC **Pricklegate Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Repairs to internal wall surfaces and ceilings (LB)

10/02899/FUL **61A Grosvenor Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Removal and installation of four windows located at the front of the property (CA)

10/02404/FUL **Lower Crowbourne Farmhouse Station Road, Goudhurst**
- Erection of a timber cart shed on field to house mowing tractor and fruit growing equipment (PROW)

10/02923/FUL **Old Fire Station Clinic The Plain, Goudhurst**
- Removal of condition 2 of TW/02/01289 - The premises shall be used as an osteopaths clinic and as office premises and no other purpose. (CA)

10/02609/HOUSE **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Retrospective - Replacement of broken fence around perimeter of west garden; replacement wire and post fence; replacement wooden panels at roadside (LB)

10/02626/FUL **Lamberhurst Vineyard Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst**
- Variation of Condition (7) of TW/07/00783 - Removal of buildings marked B, D and E (LB) (CA)

10/02577/LBC **10 Grove Hill Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Construction of timber decking, patio and steps from basement to rear garden (LB)

10/02784/LBC **10 Calverley Park Crescent Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to create extended opening between dining room and kitchen. Creation of internal screen to form weather lobby within existing hallway (LB)

10/02880/FUL **72 - 74 Calverley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Internal and external minor alterations (CA)

10/02888/LBC **2 Calverley Park Crescent Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent - re-instate original door opening between ground floor front and rear reception rooms (LB)

10/02924/HOUSE **19 Woodside Road Rusthall, Rusthall**
- Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension (CA)

10/02925/HOUSE **21 Woodside Road Rusthall, Rusthall**
- Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension (CA)

10/02857/FUL **Sheffield Hall Sheffield Road, Southborough North**
- Conversion of disused former office building into 3 apartments (CA)

10/02865/HOUSE **26 Prospect Park Southborough, Southborough North**
- Two storey side extension and relocation of garage to attach to new extension (CA)

10/02829/LBC **Lower Church Farmhouse Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of bottom 8 treads of staircase in hallway and the reinstatement of a semi-circular stair (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 18 September 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008–June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

Award winning publications

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HIGHWAYS – District of Ashford

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD - (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that for public safety during the construction of the Victoria Way Relief Road, the Kent County Council has made an Order in respect of George Street, Victoria Crescent and Victoria Road, Ashford on or after 20 September 2010 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The effect is to impose a temporary One-way Traffic Order in respect of George Street, Victoria Crescent and Victoria Road.

The traffic flow will be in a clockwise direction, as described above.

HIGHWAYS – District of Canterbury

HIGH STREET & AVENUE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on High Street & Avenue Road, Herne Bay on or after 28 September 2010 for up to 9 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Lane End and Canterbury Road.

The alternative route is via Lane End, Central Parade and Canterbury Road.

The various side roads leading from High Street and Avenue Road will be closed at their junctions with High Street and Avenue Road as the works progress. These will be sign-posted on site, with local diversions set up.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Station Road, Beach Street, William Street, Bank Street and East Street will be suspended, when the relevant signs are covered, to allow traffic to access and exit as necessary.

DEANSWAY AVENUE AND PARK VIEW, STURRY- (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Deansway Avenue and Park View, Sturry, Canterbury, on or after 4 October 2010 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Deansway Avenue will be closed between the junctions with Herne Bay Road and Park View.

The alternative route is via Herne Bay Road, Popes Lane and Deansway Avenue.

Park View will be closed at the junction with Deansway Avenue.

The diversion is via McCarthy Avenue, River View, Hillbrow Avenue, Popes Lane and Herne Bay Road.

RABBIT HOLE, BARHAM - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of works to install new kerbs to alleviate drainage problems, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Rabbit Hole, Barham, on or after 4 October 2010 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Brickfield Road and The Street.

The alternative route is via Brickfield Road, Valley Road and The Street.

HIGHWAYS – District of Dover

EAST CLIFF, DOVER - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of installation of a new gas supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on East Cliff, Dover, on or after 20 September 2010 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside no.27. There will be no access for though traffic.

There is no alternative route. There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of East Cliff to allow access either side of the closure.

HIGHWAYS – District of Sevenoaks

CHART LANE, BRASTED (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Chart Lane, Brasted between its junction with Emmetts Road and Pipers Green Road.

The Order will become effective on 4th October 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th October 2010 and last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Chart Lane, High Street, New Road and Emmetts Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a sewer connection.

HIGHWAYS – District of Shepway

A260 SPITFIRE WAY, HAWKINGE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the resurfacing of A260 Canterbury Road and White Horse Hill roundabout, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on A260 Spitfire Way, Hawkinge from 20 September 2010 for 2 nights or until the works have been completed.

Spitfire Way will be closed between the junctions with A260 Canterbury Road and Haven Drive / Swann Way. The slip roads linking the White Horse Hill roundabout to and from the coast bound carriageway of the A20 will also be closed under a separate Highways Agency Traffic Order.

The alternative routes are as follows.

To reach the A20 - via M20 Junction 13, A259 Churchill Avenue and A260 Canterbury Road

For Spitfire Way via White Horse Hill and Canterbury Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, ELHAM & STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of water mains renewal, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Elham and Stelling Minnis, on or after 4 October 2010 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed in 2 phases, as shown below.

CLAVERTYE & DROVEWAY, ELHAM on or after 4 October 2010 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via High Minnis, Gate Lane, Chapel Lane and Mount Top

WHEELBARROW TOWN, STELLING MINNIS on or after 15 November 2010 for up to 6 weeks.

The alternative route is via Bossingham Road, Curtis Lane, B2068 Stone Street, Mockbeggar and High Minnis.

The exact timing of the phases is dependent on ground conditions, but only one phase will be carried out at any one time. Residents will be advised of the timings as the works progress, and there will be signage on site.

EASTBRIDGE ROAD, DYMCHURCH - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that to enable BT access to boxes to carry out cabling works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch, on or after 7 October 2010 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Sutton Farm and the junction with Church Road.

The alternative route is via Mill Road, St Mary's Road, the un-named road to Newchurch, The Street, Gammon's Farm Lane, Chapel Lane and Eastbridge Road.

HIGHWAYS – District of Thanet

HALL BY THE SEA ROAD, MARGATE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hall By The Sea Road, Margate on or after 27 September 2010 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the rear of No 16 Marine Terrace.

The alternative route is via Marine Terrace.

HIGH STREET & TOTHILL STREET, MINSTER - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on High Street & Tothill Street, Minster, Thanet, on or after 8 October 2010, for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

High Street, Minster will be closed on or after 8 October 2010 for up to 3 weekday nights.

The road will be closed between B2047 Monkton Road and Church Street.

The alternative route is via B2047 Tothill Street, B2048 Foxborough Lane, Bedlam Court Lane and Church Street.

Tothill Street, Minster will be closed on or after 13 October 2010 for up to 5 weekday nights.

The road will be closed between A299 Minster Roundabout and B2047 Monkton Road.

The alternative route is via A299 Canterbury Road West, Willetts Hill, Monkton Street and Monkton Road.

The works will be carried out between the hours of 7.00 pm and midnight, with the roads re-opened outside these hours.

HIGHWAYS – District of Tonbridge and Malling

NEW WHARF ROAD, TONBRIDGE - (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on New Wharf Road from the junction of The High Street to the loading bay for Somerfield on or after 07:00hrs Saturday 9th October 2010 to 07:00hrs Monday 11th October 2010 or until such works are completed.

The one way orders on New Wharf Road, River Walk and Bradford Street are temporarily suspended during the time of the works to allow for access to The High Street via Bradford Street.

Southern Gas Networks and South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide new connections. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contacts are: SGN – Kim Gibbons on 01279 792233 and SEW – Sarah Cameron on 01634 276166.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Bevy of Chevys lined up

By **STEVE LOADER**

GENERAL Motors has had a struggle on its hands of late.

It came close to selling its European Vauxhall/Opel arm to stave off crippling debt and had actually closed its Saab executive marque, until an 11th hour sell-off to form a new company with Spyker supercars.

But there are signs the American giant is shrugging off its worries, notably through the ambition of its biggest brand, Chevrolet, developed vigorously in the UK and Europe since launch 2005 on the back of acquiring the bankrupt Daewoo Cars operation.

And the full weight of Chevy's next big push will be seen at the Paris Motor Show later this month with two model debuts for a start: a much-needed replacement for the Aveo supermini – previously a re-work of the dated Kalos model – and the all-new Orlando MPV (main picture).

The new and extravagently-styled Aveo arrives in autumn next year and is clearly aimed at younger buyers wanting to cut a dash – it will challenge the sharp styling of the Ford Fiesta in particular and be aggressively priced too.

The Orlando will be available next spring though to belatedly plug a yawning gap left by the axing of the awful ex-Daewoo Tacuma in 2008.

It is a key sector that Chevy should be in and the duties have been partially taken up before by the excellent and well-priced five and seven-seat Captiva SUV, also given a major facelift for Paris that will shift it slightly upmarket to leave the Orlando to hoover up customers who need a cheap people mover.

Unfortunately for sister brand Vauxhall, it could also cannibalise sales of its Zafira midi-MPV sector leader by having seven seats as standard.

Chevrolet Europe boss, Wayne Brannon said: "The new Orlando MPV kicks off an ambitious seven-product launch programme over the next 15 months.

"We're confident the Orlando not only brings great value for money to the MPV class but also something fresh – function with attitude if you like. I believe it will also bring more new customers to the Chevrolet brand."

Despite the sweeping roof-line, the second and third row of seats are raised grandstand-style behind the front seats to give a better view forwards and sideways, yet can also be quickly folded and varied to create an adaptable load space.

The newcomer is based on the brand's award winning and handsome Cruze saloon, which has made a name for itself in competition.

Surely one of the worst-kept secrets of the industry was that this would soon be joined by a hatchback version despite, again, clashing with a Vauxhall model.

Crucially though, the latest and classy Astra has been moved upmarket, leaving the new Cruze hatch (pictured) to pitch for the value buyers when it arrives in mid-2011 after joining other Chevy debutantes in Paris.

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09 MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 8000 MILES, £13,995
10 FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1400 MILES, £11,995
10 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 MILES, £10,995
10 VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 MILES, £10,995
09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 MILES, £10,995
09 DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAROON, 1900 MILES, £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 2000 MILES, £9,995
09 SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 MILES, £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 MILES, £9,995
09 VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES, £9,495
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 MILES, £8,995
09 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 1200 MILES, £7,995

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS

09 MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 13000 MILES, £29,950
08 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, RED, 5000 MILES, £12,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 MILES, £10,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 MILES, £9,995
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES, £9,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 16000 MILES, £9,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 MILES, £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 MILES, £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 MILES, £8,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 MILES, £8,995
06 PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, RED, 21000 MILES, £8,995
06 NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 MILES, £8,495
05 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 MILES, £7,495
05 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT 16V TWINPORT COUPE, BLACK, 26000 MILES, £6,995

FIESTA

06 FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 1600 MILES, YES REALLY UNDER 2000 MILES FROM NEW £6,995
07 FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 MILES, £5,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 MILES, £10,995
08 FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 MILES, £9,995
08 FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 MILES, £8,995
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 MILES, £8,995
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 18000 MILES, £7,995
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 MILES, £7,495
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 MILES, £7,495
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 MILES, £7,495
05 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 MILES, £6,495

FOCUS ESTATES

07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 MILES, £7,995
06 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 MILES, £7,495
06 FORD FOCUS LX 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 MILES, £5,995

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08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 MILES, £8,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 6000 MILES, £8,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 MILES, £8,995
07 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 MILES, £8,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 MILES, £8,995
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07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 MILES, £7,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 18000 MILES, £7,995
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08 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, RED, 5000 MILES, £12,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 MILES, £10,995
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06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 MILES, £8,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION VVT 111 ESTATE CAR ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 600 MILES, £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 MILES, £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 MILES, £8,995
08 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 MILES, £8,995
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 MILES, £7,995
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 MILES, £7,995
07 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 16000 MILES, £7,995
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05 RENAULT MODUS PRIVILEGE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 39000 MILES, £4,995

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09 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 MILES, £6,995
08 CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 MILES, £6,995
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09 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1200 MILES, £6,495
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07 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 MILES, £4,995
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06 HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 MILES, £5,995
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08 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 MILES, £5,995
07 HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, RED, 4000 MILES, £5,995
07 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 MILES, £5,495
07 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 9000 MILES, £5,495
06 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 MILES, £4,495

KIA

09 KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 MILES, £7,995
08 KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 MILES, £7,495
06 KIA PICANTO LX 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 24000 MILES, £4,995

DAIHATSU

09 DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAROON, 1900 MILES, £9,995
08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 MILES, £7,995
08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 MILES, £7,995
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05 BMW 3 SERIES 320D ES TOURING TD ESTATE, GREY, 5100 MILES, £12,995

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06 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 MILES, £5,995

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10 FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1400 MILES, £11,995
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08 FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 MILES, £8,995
08 FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 MILES, £8,995
09 FORD FUSION STYLE CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 MILES, £7,995
07 FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 MILES, £6,995

CITROEN

08 CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 MILES, £9,995
06 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 16V ESTATE AUTO, RED, 16000 MILES, £6,995
02 CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 MILES, £2,995

MONDEO

06 FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 24000 MILES, £6,995

CORSA

10 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 MILES, £10,995
09 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, STAR SILVER, 900 MILES, £9,995
08 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES, £8,495
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08 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 2000 MILES, £8,495
09 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 MILES, £7,995
07 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 MILES, £7,495
06 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVE, 19000 MILES, £6,495
06 VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 MILES, £5,495
05 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI 16V 5DR TD HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 65000 MILES, £4,495

MAZDA

08 MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 MILES, £10,995
07 MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 MILES, £9,995
06 MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 MILES, £8,995
06 MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 MILES, £8,995
07 MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 MILES, £5,995

SUZUKI

09 SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 MILES, £9,995
07 SUZUKI IGNIS GL VVT-S 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 9000 MILES, £5,995

TOYOTA

07 TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4X4, BLUE, 16000 MILES, £13,995
07 TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4X4, GREY, 16000 MILES, £13,995
07 TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4X4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 MILES, £13,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, RED, 25000 MILES, £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 MILES, £9,995
06 TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, BLACK, 11000 MILES, £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 13000 MILES, £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 MILES, £9,995
08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 MILES, £8,995
07 TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 MILES, £8,995
08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 MILES, £8,995
07 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 23000 MILES, £7,495
07 TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 MILES, £6,995
04 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 MILES, £6,995
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04 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 MILES, £5,995

NISSAN

07 NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, FIRED IRON, 19000 MILES, £10,995
07 NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 MILES, £10,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 MILES, £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 2000 MILES, £9,995
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES, £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 MILES, £8,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 MILES, £8,995
08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 MILES, £8,495
08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 MILES, £8,495
06 NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 MILES, £8,495
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 MILES, £7,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 18000 MILES, £7,495
06 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 MILES, £6,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 8000 MILES, £6,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 27000 MILES, £5,995
04 NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 MILES, £5,495
04 NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 MILES, £4,995
04 NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 MILES, £4,995
03 NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 32000 MILES, £4,495
02 NISSAN MICRA S 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 47000 MILES, £3,495
02 NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH, GREY, 31000 MILES, £3,295

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

09 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 MILES, £10,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI 8V 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 11000 MILES, £10,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 MILES, £9,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 9000 MILES, £8,495
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 MILES, £7,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 MILES, £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 MILES, £7,495
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 10000 MILES, £6,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 MILES, £6,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 MILES, £5,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 MILES, £5,995
04 VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 MILES, £4,995

ASTRA ESTATES

08 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, ECLIPSE BLACK, 5000 MILES, £9,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 MILES, £7,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 MILES, £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 MILES, £7,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 MILES, £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 MILES, £6,995
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 MILES, £6,495
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 MILES, £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

09 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 MILES, £13,995
09 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 6000 MILES, £12,995
10 VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 MILES, £10,995
10 VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 MILES, £10,995
09 VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 2000 MILES, £9,995
09 VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 MILES, £9,995
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09 VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES, £9,495
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 16000 MILES, £8,995
08 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 10000 MILES, £8,995
08 VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 MILES, £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 7000 MILES, £7,995
07 VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 MILES, £6,995
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08 VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 MILES, £8,995
07 VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 7000 MILES, £7,995
07 VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 22000 MILES, £7,495
07 VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 MILES, £6,995
05 VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 30000 MILES, £6,495
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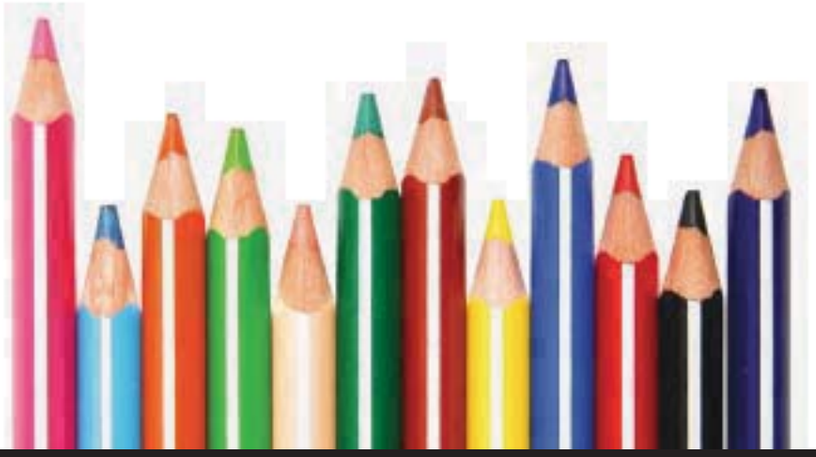

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

More Saab power options

JUST two months after launch, the reborn Saab brand has already added two further powertrains to the all-new Saab 9-5 and offered all-wheel drive as an option.

The latter comes via a 190bhp, 2.0-litre twin turbo diesel mated with XWD (cross-wheel drive) – Saab's answer to Audi's Quattro branding.

At the other end of the scale, the 9-5 petrol line-up is extended by an efficient, 180bhp turbocharged 1.6-litre – one of the most powerful outputs available for this size of engine.

The diesel engine uses two turbochargers of different sizes, intended to deliver instant punch at low engine speeds via the low-inertia small turbo and strong, top-end power at higher engine speeds when the large turbo is engaged.

Astra's sister act looks set to diverge

VAUXHALL'S previous Astra helped deliver the death-knell to lookalike three-door spin-offs derived from five-door family hatchbacks.

The resulting Sport Hatch was a head-turner, especially in full-blooded VXR form.

It appears the brand now aims to go a stage further in opening a gap between five and three-door versions of the latest Astra.

This stunning GTC Paris Concept will be unveiled on September 30 at the Paris Motor Show.

At 4.46 metres, the GTC Paris is claimed to offer good space for five people, within a head-turning design and sporting concept that includes a specially designed chassis, plus an electronic limited slip differential to control power from a turbocharged 2.0-litre petrol engine.

Kia feeding big demand for Sportage

DUE to huge demand for the 850-limited run of Kia Sportage First Edition 2.0-litre 4x4 diesels and some would-be buyers wanting a petrol alternative, the Kia brand has added 300 petrol First Editions to the run

The extra cars come with a 161bhp 2.0-litre engine capable of averaging around 35mpg, plus the same high spec as its diesel counterpart, including black leather upholstery, dual-zone climate control, 18-inch alloys, LED daytime running lights, Bluetooth, cruise control, rain-sensing wipers and a colour rear parking camera system integrated into the rear view mirror.

It is also available in blue and three metallic colours: black, silver and orange.

The price is £19,495 and comes with the universal Kia seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

Front-wheel drive versions of the Sportage arrive later this year with two smaller petrol and diesel options.

Radical personality. New Citroën DS3 brings Créative Technologie into ultra-sharp focus. Totally original and new, it is a fine balance of pure class, elegant poise, tactile quality, effortless practicality and proper undiluted fun. Now this radical personality is available in two striking new editions: Citroën DS3 Black and DS3 White, which include 17" alloy wheels, roof stripes, air conditioning, chrome door mirrors, LED diodes and front fog lights.

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

CITROËN

Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest: New Citroën DS3 1.6 VTi 120hp Auto 9.6/29.4 5.3/53.3 6.9/40.9, 158. Lowest: New Citroën DS3 1.6HDi 90hp DStyle 99g 4.7/60.1, 3.3/85.6, 3.8/74.3, 99.

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Volvo's sporting new approach

by STEVELOADER

VOLVO looks in good shape – financially and design-wise.

For a company once famous for tank-like designs, it has evolved a fluid style all its own highlighted by distinctive rear-end scallops.

The financial security of the famous Swedish brand also seems assured with the recent takeover by the Chinese Geely conglomerate, after erstwhile owner Ford had done so much to bring the brand up to scratch.

And the new S60 is earning good notices as a car with which Volvo can attack the likes of the BMW 3-Series, Audi A4 and Mercedes-Benz C-Class in the driving department.

It is worth noting though that this transformation on the chassis front might have its roots in a facelift of the bigger S80 around this time last year; always a cosseting car to cruise in, it nevertheless probably catered too much to the tastes of Volvo's No1 market, the USA.

However, Volvo chose to fit a sportier European chassis as standard on SE and SE Lux models last year, with a 'Comfort' chassis as a no-cost option or standard fit with Executive trim – we haven't driven the latter version, but if it's anything like the pre-facelift drive then avoid it.

The new standard sporty set-up is impressive though with notably better damping when cornering, transforming the S80's handling and driving feedback without greatly affecting the car's cruising refinement.

The facelift also coincided with introduction of revised powertrains and, notably, versions using Volvo's impressive ultra-eco DRIVe branding – one of these also happens to be the entry model for the range, priced from £24,535.

Despite all the aerodynamic and other tweaks and keen pricing that come with this environmentally-friendly choice though, it is perhaps a little underpowered with its 109bhp 1.6-litre diesel.

Sales continue to be dominated more by a revised version of Volvo's long-lived five-cylinder (D5) 2.4-litre twin turbodiesel delivering 205bhp – quieter, more frugal and cleaner than before.

This week's test car though was the all-new 161bhp 2.0-litre that suits the car well, though it is no better for fuel or emissions than the bigger D5 and markedly less spritely.

Other options – and rather silly too in these straitened times – are the turbocharged 2.5T and V8 all-wheel drive petrol models.

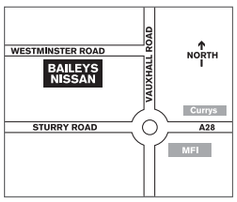
On a general note, the facelift has given the S80 a much cleaner look with revised grille plus bigger Volvo badge, more chrome and a refreshed interior. The cabin is a masterpiece of classical design and robust and user-friendly kit and extremely comfortable to be in.

However, this sector of the market has been motoring of late and the Swede finds itself up against the multiple award-winning Jaguar XF – though the Volvo offers more rear legroom – and an all-new BMW 5-Series. Of the big names, only the ageing Audi A6 needs to fear the revitalised Volvo, especially with the S80's excellent value for money.

DrivingPortfolio

VOLVO S80 2.0D SE LUX £30,095

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How Green?	★★★
Road tax	£110/year
Best rival	Jaguar XF



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*Actual model shown is 1.6L Acenta with optional Sport pack priced at £14,095. Model shown has optional metallic paint worth £400 including VAT. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd., The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.
Pre-production fuel consumption figures for Juke range are: URBAN 44.8-27.7mpg/6.3-10.2L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 64.1-47.0mpg/4.4-6.0L/100km – COMBINED 55.3-37.2mpg/5.1-7.6L/100km. CO_2 emissions are: 134-175g/km. Information correct at time of print. Official figures available at www.nissan.co.uk from August 2010.

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Spotlight Top-10 best-sellers

by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Times change but it's the same stars that keep shining

BEST SELLER: Ford's Fiesta is the runaway number one best seller in the UK, and it even outsells its big sister, the Focus

NEW car sales for August ahead of the September '60' registration plate change took a big hit, falling 17.5 per cent against the same month in 2009.

But before the economic doomsayers shift into top gear, we must remember that the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme was still in full swing for last year's run-up to the new plate – this time, there were no £2,000 sweeteners on a new car for anyone trading in a car 10 years or more older.

And while motor industry mouthpiece, the SMMT, admitted August was a bit of a disaster, new car registrations have been running some 13 per cent up against last year.

Despite forecasting a "challenging" final quarter, the body now fully expects the final 2010 total to be ahead of 2009 – and with little help from Scrappage.

And there are some things that remain fairly constant – the top-10 best-sellers.

Vauxhall continues to stick close to Ford, but VW is the growing force in the UK 10 with the excellent new Polo now established alongside the Golf in the ratings.

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CLOSE RIVAL: Vauxhall sticks close to Ford's tail with the third and fourth-placed Astra (pictured in forthcoming Sports Tourer form) and Corsa

FRENCH CHIC: Peugeot 207 – the supermini's combination of a good drive and good build have made it a huge success in the UK, following other big sellers in the same class, the 205 and 206 (folding hardtop 207 CC pictured)

Top-10
so far this year

1 Ford Fiesta
2 Ford Focus
3 Vauxhall Astra
4 Vauxhall Corsa
5 VW Golf
6 VW Polo
7 Peugeot 207
8 (BMW) Mini
9 BMW 3 Series
10 Nissan Qashqai

WHEELS IN MOTION: Volkswagen has been a top 10 fixture for a while but usually courtesy of the Golf – now the German marque's presence has been bolstered by the excellent Polo (pictured here in eco-friendly BlueMotion form)

CROSSOVER APPEAL: The British-built Nissan Qashqai has revolutionised the market and Nissan's image. Credited with creating the crossover sector by combining family hatch/MPV/SUV duties, it has caught buyers' eyes and imagination and tested rivals' ingenuity

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6)-21.5 (13.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2)-39.7 (7.1), Combined 55.4 (5.1)-30.3 (9.3), CO2 Emissions 119-234 g/km.

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2003 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 81,500 miles. £2995*

58 Plate Skoda Roomster 1.9 TDI
Silver, 11,000 miles. £10,795*

58 Plate Skoda Roomster Scout 1.6 16v, Automatic
Red, Top of The Range, 14,500 miles. £9,495*

Other Makes

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon
Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. £7,995*

2004 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S (100BHP) 7-Seat
Finished in Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 50,500 miles. £6,995 **Now £6,495***

07 Plate SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16v Style
Silver, FSH, I owner from new, 16,190 miles. £6,495*

2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback
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2004 Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004
Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles Manual Petrol £3,995*

2002 Daewoo Tacuma 1.6 SE 5-Door MPV
Finished in Imperial Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 59,500 miles. £2,995*

05 Plate Rover 23 GSI 1.4 3dr
Grey, 1 Owner, 55,000 miles. £2,495*

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159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, ebony metallic, 58000 miles, £3500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A4, Sport, 2004, blue, 69438 miles, £5999, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A4, TDi TDV SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 51625 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A8, Quattro, 2006, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation traction control trip computer xenon headlamps remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls t.v. black, 65200 miles, £18000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

Q7, TDI Quattro 240 S Line, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid single cd player traction control remote central locking, silver, 19260 miles, £31000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 T Quattro, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player climate control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers, phantom black, 51652 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 120d SE 5 dr, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering satellite navigation trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers, black, 53123 miles, £9699, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325D M Sport, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking roof bars remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black sapphire, 12953 miles, £26000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 335i se coupe auto, 2006, sparkling grey metallic with dakota red sport leat, 33400 miles, £17950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d M Sport E60, kl06pxj, full leather, air conditioning, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, cd player, sports seats, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, radio, stereo, electric seats, rear spoiler, 18'' alloys, m sport bodykit, m sport alloys, i drive system, titan carbon trims. carbon black, 0 miles, £12995, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 645ci auto, 2004, sapphire black metallic with chateau red dakota le, 57800 miles, £14950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 730d SE AUTO SAT NAV, full leather, satellite navigation, xenon headlamps, rain-sensing wipers, heated seats, memory seats, climate control, cruise control, air con, multi-function steering wheel, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, tracker fitted, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, headlamp jetwash, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric handbrake, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, aluminium silver, 62611 miles, £19849, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

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X3, 3.0d M Sport SAT NAV & TV, wu55efy, satellite navigation, television, climate control, air conditioning, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, cd player, sports seats, rain-sensing wipers, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, radio, stereo, 18'' alloys, 4x4, blue, 0 miles, £12990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

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AVEO, LT, 2008, black, 20523 miles, £4800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AVEO, LT, 2008, black, 20523 miles, £4800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, VCDi LT FWD, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 21364 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, VCDi LT FWD, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 21364 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KALOS, s, 2008, abs brakes central locking electric windows power steering isofix child seat points, red, 12250 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.2 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 27000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SW, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 9500 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE Plus 5dr, ke53lba, immobiliser, power steering, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, electric windows, 14'' alloys, aluminium silver, 26000 miles, £2699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags lumbar support rear headrests height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, bossanova white, 15611 miles, £9500, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, black, 7811 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, DYNAMIC T-JET, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking power steering, blue, 15185 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, SX, 1996, central locking electric windows immobiliser, white, 85000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, VTEC Executive automatic Sat Nav + Leather, wg04nfe, full leather, climate control, abs, power steering, parking sensor, multi-function steering wheel, electric mirrors, electric windows, satellite navigation, remote central locking, colour coded body, cd player, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, front fog lamps, 15'' alloys, blue, 89000 miles, £5749, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Type S, 2005, air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint multiple airbags remote central locking, silver, 28300 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, SE Leather, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking climate control electric windows full service history heated seats metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, silver, 19913 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CR-V, SPORT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column, grey, 49418 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HR-V, 1.6AUTO, 2002, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking electric windows full service history, silver, 51489 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HR-V, 1.6AUTO, 2002, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking electric windows full service history, silver, 51489 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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JAGUAR

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X-TYPE, Sport Premium 2009DPF, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 10017 miles, £22000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, SOVEREIGN, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation trip computer remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, ionian blue with barley leather, 21600 miles, £18490, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

XF, PREMIUM LUXURY, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid traction control remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, emerald fire with barley leather, 6900 miles, £32490, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

OUR front page is a mixed bag in terms of business optimism for Kent, but news of yet another award win for Internet travel giant Holiday Extras was the perfect excuse for balancing that with some positive news.

The Hythe-based firm has gone from strength to strength this year – growth is up 20 per cent despite overall gloom in the travel trade. Read The Big Interview with CEO Matthew Pack for great tips on how to stay on course in tough times.

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Seeda signs off with gloomy jobs forecast

SPECIAL REPORT

By **STEVE LOADER**, **JILL HURST**, **JENNY ARMSTRONG** and **ED HILL**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RESEARCHERS at doomed development agency Seeda have come up with a gloomy outlook for jobs in parts of Kent.

Despite evidence of UK recovery and receding fears of a double-dip recession, the South East England Development Agency's Kent and Medway economy update shows worrying trends in certain areas, particularly on the jobs front.

Employment across the county has fallen less over the past year than in the previous one, but remains below the South East average, and forecasts for recovery to 2007 levels vary widely according to local authority areas.

Ashford, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks, for instance are already back to 2007 parity according to expert sources quoted by Seeda which, like other regional development agencies, will soon make way for new Local Enterprise Agencies proposed by the coalition Government. On the other hand, it could be at least 10 years before Maidstone, Gravesham, Medway and Dover recover the lost ground, while Swale (Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Faversham) faces the shocking prospect of waiting until 2025, prompting criticism this week of Swale Borough Council. The opposition deputy leader of Swale Labour party, Cllr Roger Truelove, said: "There has been an utter failure to even begin to tackle issues of employability let alone the supply of job opportunities. Swale's regeneration options end with dressing-up shop windows or supplying low-priority information to small businesses."

BRIDGE THE GAP: Swale is facing a long haul

Swale's Lib Dem leader Keith Nevols talked of a whole generation being let down, and added: "Continued delays for Sittingbourne's master plan show the Tory-dominated council does not recognise the urgency and is moving with its customary speed of a three-legged tortoise."

But Sittingbourne and Sheppey's Conservative MP, Gordon Henderson, hoped a Swale business forum he was forming might act as a conduit between firms and the Government.

He added: "At the same time Swale council can provide encouragement by making it easier for business to operate in the borough. I will be working with the council to promote our area as a good place to invest."

Council leader Cllr Andrew Bowles said: "The economy is one of our top priorities and we are doing what we can. Although [Seeda's] figures are perhaps helpful at county level, the report admits they can be inaccurate at district level.

"Economic health is not just about growth. It is about long-term sustainable growth, which is something that we are striving to achieve."

There was no complacency either in areas tipped to do well on the jobs front, with widespread recognition that proposed public sector cuts could make forecasts unpredictable.

Challenge

Dawn Hudd, local economy manager for Canterbury City Council, said the city usually fared well even in tough times, but this was largely due to its public sector employment. "What has been our strength could be a weakness over the next five or six years," she said.

"Our challenge is going to be reducing the impact of public sector cuts because we could suffer. We are looking at strategies for that."

But Barretts of Canterbury MD and the chairman of Canterbury4Business, Paul Barrett, said: "There is no doubt there are challenges ahead. But there are lots of other good indicators in this report which suggest Canterbury is well placed to try and mitigate any losses that happen in the public sector.

"Things such as the high-speed rail link should help. There is good news in these statistics and they give us a lot of be optimistic about."

Booming Ashford has not been without problems either, though council leader Cllr Paul Bartlett was quick to say his authority would always try to help in a crisis.

He said: "That is what sets our approach apart in Ashford. We are willing to engage with business and find out ways that are better and smarter and protect jobs."

However, he did acknowledge disappointment about news of 150 job losses at the town's Bombardier train maintenance depot, but was pleased it would carry on with servicing work.

"If it was closed or mothballed it would much more difficult to get operations started again.

"We think this means when the country moves out of recession that site will be well placed to pick up new contracts," he said.

But there's optimism elsewhere

COMPLEX: David Philpott

DAVID PHILPOTT, chairman of the Institute of Directors in Kent, said: "The upward revision of second quarter growth figures, from 1.1 per cent to 1.2 per cent is obviously good news, but we shouldn't get carried away.

"It's a case of slowly, slowly in terms of the upturn. The picture is incredibly complex and we will obviously be affected by the performance of our near neighbours in the eurozone, as well as America, China and India. The IoD doesn't expect this level of growth to be sustained through the second half of 2010, but it is too early to call whether it slides into a quarterly decline or a double-dip recession."

ANDREW METCALF, director of Tunbridge Wells-based PR and marketing agency Maxim and IoD Kent vice-chairman said: "New economic indicators and forecasts reach us daily, some good, some bad, others simply contradictory, and after a while I'm sure many of us simply feel punch-drunk or at best confused. Whatever the shape of the recession, I am convinced that Kent companies, like those elsewhere in the UK, will simply do everything they can to survive and see out this downturn. The winners will be the innovators and those who have consistently invested in their marketing."

JAMES SPECK, site director of Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, said: "We continue to see a healthy level of enquiries from science-based businesses, many of which are international companies. If the country is to emerge stronger from this we must create a business environment that attracts inward investment and nurtures home-grown talent in those industries that will deliver the fastest growth, and these are the knowledge-based sectors. The emergency Budget went some way to helping companies, but with the public sector facing huge cuts, the Chancellor must support the business community if he is to protect the weak, but welcome, upturn."

SUPPORT: James Speck

On the issue of cutting red tape for business as a way of stimulating growth and attracting inward investment, Mr Speck, said: "The issue of business regulation is fundamental to how we turn the UK economy around. The one-in, one-out system on regulation must be welcomed.

"The system, which came into operation on September 1, means any ministers seeking to introduce regulations imposing new costs on businesses must identify existing regulations with an equivalent value to be removed.

"However, I expect business will be sceptical until they see it happening in reality."

TRACEY MANLEY, chief executive of Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce, said: "We welcome the news that economy is in a better position than predicted, but we must still be prepared to work harder and leaner for a few months yet. A private sector-led economic recovery is dependant on credit conditions allowing viable companies to grow."

WELCOME: Tracey Manley

Comment

TRYING to relax, I was still steamed up at the weekend during a supposedly peaceful walk. We were strolling through King's Wood, Challock, when we stumbled upon a fence.

Nothing remarkable?

This fence went nowhere, kept nothing in place and was the worse for wear, bearing signs about no doubt costly 'Repairs in progress'. Why bother? I ask myself when it is clearly doing nothing, only to later discover that this is a 'work of art'.

A beautifully produced handbook by the registered charity Stour Valley Arts, which "has commissioned artists to make sculptures" within the forest since 1994, explains all about the 2005-vintage fence, sorry, rail: "Made in softwood (going rotten), it sits lightly in its forest surroundings, drawing an elegant line through the trees."

How lovely. How inspirational. And what twaddle I'm thinking, as I kick my office chair around – artistically, of course.

For a start, I could show you another nearby woodland charity – Poulton Wood at Aldington, run by the Canterbury Oast Trust – far more worthy of donations. It combines sustainable management of the trees with a work experience programme for adults with learning difficulties.

But the main point here is to underline how much we all took our eyes off the ball during the Noughties.

Allowing nonsense like a pointless fence in a wood – close to another exhibit suspiciously like a crater left by a misdirected Luftwaffe bombing raid – is typical of woolly management that allowed the UK to build a massive debt.

A theme being repeated in our Business Week section is how many companies have managed to survive and grow despite the downturn by simply doing what they should have done all along – good housekeeping.

We've all been guilty of it to a degree and the arts sector did rather well out of our profligate approach, reminding me of that classic fairy tale The Emperor's New Clothes.

And a half million quid cash injection from English Heritage and Arts Council England for Margate shows there is still money sloshing about for such ventures – I just hope it is spent more wisely in this case.

Enough of that; I'm off to arrange back issues of this newspaper artistically and lovingly around our car park; I shall video the pages blowing serenely across the gravel – should be worth a few bob in arts funding don't you think?

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

Bank's award nominations honour

TONBRIDGE-based Charity Bank has been shortlisted in four categories at this year's Financial World Innovation Awards.

But it now faces competition from major players such as Lloyds TSB, HSBC, Santander and other household names when the presentation night is staged on December 1.

Kent's Charity Bank is unique in the UK for using depositors' funds to lend to charities, social enterprises and community organisations. The bank itself is also a charity and social enterprise. The nominations in the awards, run by the Institute of Financial Services (IFS), are for:

- Social responsibility and community banking.
- Innovation in social enterprise and inclusion.
- Excellence in customer communication.
- Excellence in risk and management control.

Chief executive Malcolm Hayday said: "The IFS awards are a key event in the financial industry calendar and to have this recognition is a tremendous honour.

"Being nominated is testimony to Charity Bank's innovation and creativity and to the work of the team."

Charity Bank has enjoyed a 22 per cent growth rate in its balance sheet over the past year as consumers look for alternatives to mainstream banks; it has used these deposits to increase its lending to the charitable sector.

FINE CROP: Sainsbury's produce managers during their EMR orchard visit

A growing awareness

TAKING to heart their own slogan – 'Try something new today' – 140 Sainsbury's produce managers visited East Malling Research, ***writes Steve Loader***.

Their arrival at the UK centre of excellence for fruit and horticultural research was part of the supermarket giant's ongoing campaign to ensure key managers fully understand how products are grown and sourced.

They also saw the Sainsbury's Concept Pear Orchard on site, soon to harvest its first crop of 25 tonnes, less than two years after being planted – much faster than in traditionally managed orchards.

The orchard is designed to demonstrate the commercial opportunities of growing conference pears in the UK using best practice from growing systems employed in other parts of the world. This includes modern trellising, root pruning and water management techniques.

Dr Theresa Huxley, Sainsbury's product technologist for apples and pears, who has worked to promote collaborative working between growers, suppliers and Sainsbury's, said: "We sell 40 per cent of all UK conference pears and have made a commitment to supporting this quintessential English fruit and the businesses that grow them. It is important each of our produce managers understands the production process and how much care and attention our growers take with their crops.

"They can then spread the news about what we are doing to improve the productivity and quality of this handpicked fruit."

Dr Mike Solomon, EMR's chief executive, said: "The orchard is an excellent example of what can be achieved through collaboration between retailers, wholesalers and ourselves to help improve the industry.

"We are confident that once growers realise the potential offered by the techniques being used in the orchard they will commit to growing the variety and help ensure the future availability of conference pears by increasing UK production."

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Plant hunter and kidnap victim Tom Hart Dyke has created a world-class visitor attraction at his family home, Lullingstone Castle

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

A NEW Locate in Maidstone website has been launched by the borough council's economic development team with the help of design agency Visarc.

Cabinet member for regeneration Cllr Malcolm Greer said: "The site acts as a virtual shop window for Maidstone, capturing local success stories. We hope to hear from local businesses with ideas for news items, content and case studies."

Click on www.locateinmaidstone.co.uk to visit the site.

EMPLOYERS are being reminded to submit their in-year PAYE forms to HM Revenue and Customs when an employee leaves or joins.

The P45 and P46 starter and leaver forms must be filed correctly as failing to do so may result in penalties, warns accountancy body ICAEW.

Firms with 50 or more employees must file online. They must not submit a paper copy, even as a duplicate, in advance of filing online. Employers with fewer than 50 staff do not have to comply until April 6, 2011. Click on www.hmrc.co.uk for full details.

DAIRY farmers are not managing business risk well says Barclays, after the bank found 82 per cent have scaled back management strategies despite recent market turbulence.

A spokesman said: "Farmers have experienced significant economic and weather-related unpredictability, but such uncertainty appears not to have encouraged interest in risk-management strategies.

"When lending to a farming business, the approach to risk management is one of the considerations a bank will take into account when assessing the proposition."

'Sleeping giant' awakes to pub awards triumph

FORMER music business boss Chris Maskery saw potential in a run-down Kent pub.

Backing his hunch led to The Fighting Cocks in Horton Kirby being named Best Tenanted or Leased Pub in the country at the Great British Pub Awards 2010.

Licensee Chris and wife Vanessa were new to the pub business when they took over in 2008. Chris and business partner Steve Prebble had run Sidcup-based music distributor Pinnacle Records and gold discs from artists such as Britney Spears and Back Street Boys now adorn the pub's walls.

But as a regular visitor to The Fighting Cocks with his family, Chris could see the pub was "a sleeping giant", which he and Steve awoke with a £300,000 refurbishment including a new conservatory, kitchen, toilets and redecoration. Their investment has been rewarded with new customers and an impressive 60 per cent increase in sales over the last year.

Chris said: "This award is a fantastic endorsement of all the work we've put into the pub. We're thrilled and grateful for the support of our staff and customers who helped us achieve this."

Paul Charity, editor of the Morning Advertiser drinks industry magazine and the awards organiser, said: "Winning one of our awards is a tremendous achievement. Chris and Vanessa are to be congratulated for building a successful business, despite the difficulties facing the pub industry."

Competition judge Peter Grieve of Enterprise Inns said: "It was hard to select a national winner from the shortlist of excellent pubs, but The Fighting Cocks stood out.

"It offers everything you look for in a great pub: quality food and drink, a welcoming atmosphere and high standards throughout."

Chris travelled to London's Hilton Park Lane Hotel for the awards ceremony, which was hosted by comedian Lenny Henry.

WINNER: Lenny Henry and Chris Maskery

DEVELOPER ISG Jackson has been awarded a £630,000 project by Dartford Borough Council to build a new visitor centre in the town's popular 26-acre Central Park.

The new building is part of plans to enhance the park and incorporates a café and external seating area, as well as new toilets and changing rooms. The single-storey structure will be built on piled foundations to minimise the flood risk from the nearby River Darenth, with the floor a metre above ground level.

The facade will be traditional brickwork and timber cladding, with a pitched, natural slate roof and external decking areas to three sides.

NEW: Artist's image of visitor centre

The new centre will also house the park manager's office as well as staff welfare and storage areas.

ISG Jackson, which is based in Ipswich but has a regional office in Tonbridge, will also carry out hard and soft landscaping finishes for the project, scheduled for completion in February.

ISG spokesman Stuart Talbot said: "The design for this multi-use building has been carefully considered to ensure it complements the environment, and we are confident the new centre will prove popular with visitors."

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BUSINESS WEEK

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Going limited can liberate

by Kate Mayor, head of the commercial team at Vertex Law

CHANGING the legal entity of your business should be about more than just trying to reduce your tax bill. Most small to medium-sized businesses fall into three main categories: partnerships, limited liability partnerships (LLPs), and limited companies.

KATE MAYOR

Profits on the first two categories are taxed at the same rate as personal income, whereas limited companies pay corporation tax. With the top level of personal tax standing at 50 per cent compared with corporation tax for small businesses of 21 per cent (and set to be reduced to 20 per cent from April) – as well as the varying effects of national insurance and dividends – some professionals are advising clients to consider changing from being a partnership or LLP into a limited company.

But there are other good reasons to incorporate your business, provided it is done in an orderly fashion with advice from your lawyer or tax adviser. Legally there are a number of things to think about. You need to consider your important client contracts and whether or not they are easily transferable.

Staff are likely to need to transfer from the partnership into the employment of the limited company. Landlords, banks and suppliers might need to give their consent to the change. However, the procedure need not be that arduous, provided a clear structure is mapped out and a process is followed.

For partnerships that incorporate, other benefits include limited liability – which provides some protection in the event of things going wrong.

LLPs already enjoy this advantage. Corporate status is also often a more recognised legal entity and certainly beneficial for organisations doing business abroad, particularly those that are LLPs – a hybrid arrangement not universally recognised.

Changing to a limited company means management structures can be put in place more easily. The board of directors responsible for day-to-day running of the company can be separate to the owners, which can be advantageous. This is difficult in a partnership and even, to a certain extent, in an LLP.

Key members of staff can be incentivised through employee management schemes – a tax efficient vehicle for passing shares to staff – and a corporate structure makes succession planning much easier when it is time to hand over to a new generation or if a third party sale is envisaged.

There are other financial incentives. As part of the transfer from one structure to another, the goodwill that belongs to the partnership or LLP can in some circumstances (and subject to tax advice) be 'sold' to the new limited company, creating loan accounts for the partners and/or members as appropriate.

This could attract entrepreneurs' relief and result in taxation of 10 per cent on the sale of goodwill and this can then be potentially withdrawn as capital on a tax-free basis.

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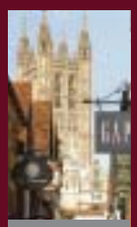
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KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Consumers cut back on travel during the recession and many experts say the rate of growth during the previous decade won't ever come back due to tough times and the environmental guilt trip. But you won't find gloom and doom at Holiday Extras in Hythe, a giant of internet travel booking for the trade and consumers, handling a range of services from insurance to hotel parking. It has just landed another award to add to a cabinet full – see our story later in the section – and dynamic chief executive MATTHEW PACK is not one to dwell on negatives, as Business Editor Steve Loader discovered.

Matthew Pack

HOLIDAY Extras' elegant and eco-friendly headquarters is next to Folkestone racecourse. As a result, the few rooms in the otherwise open-plan design are all named after racecourses, with Ascot – not unnaturally, perhaps – being the boardroom.

But while the room where the power lies might have the top-notch name, there are no signs of an elitist hierarchy here. The management structure is flat with much control devolved onto the individual.

"I totally believe in giving people more responsibility than they might feel comfortable with at first," said chief executive Matthew Pack."But there is a hell of a lot to learn in getting the most out of people. It's a real skill finding out the best and the not so good."

The group employs about 800 people, with 370 at Hythe. Up to 60 of the latter are seasonal, with many returning year after year, proof of a culture designed to keep staff happy and, therefore, customers too.

The deep-seated customer service ethic also shows in how many staff start 'on the phone' before working in other areas, yet readily fall back on the experience to help out or pick up overtime when things get busy.

Matthew himself admits to manning the pumps when the company has been flat out. "I've done stints myself lately and notably during the February bad weather," he said. "That's the kind of attitude we have here – everyone just pitches in. The last two months have been bananas."

He explained that business was 20 per cent up this year against 2009, partly through growth in consumer confidence, but also increased market share: "Post-recession, people are worrying more about who they spend their money with."

The travel trade rates the company highly, as a lengthy awards roster shows, but he is also proud of good customer feedback via bodies like Which? and with Holiday Extras' regular appearances in the The Sunday Times 100 Best Companies To Work For – it is currently 66th. It is flying high commercially, too. The main Kent-based arm of the group turns over £150 million, dealing with 8,000 travel agents and nearly seven million bookings a year, but has a smaller operation in Germany and other interests bringing total group turnover to nearer £180m. Importantly, it is in the top 40 for internet travel searches – top 10 if Google map searches are taken out – and has blue-chip partners including easyJet, British Airways and Thomas Cook.

It allows an integrated holiday booking package claimed to be as smooth, painless and financially attractive as possible, summed up by a marketing strapline: 'We take the hassle, you take the holiday.'

The latest project is integration of taxis: "Some research showed that people were sometimes ripped off by taxi services, so we have been building a network of trusted taxi firms. We are trying all the time to understand and anticipate customers' needs, to

MATTHEW PACK's CV

- **1999 – graduated from Bournemouth University with a BSc in information systems management. During studies he gained a placement with British Airways to widen his experience in the travel business.**
- 2000 – joined ground-breaking internet travel booking site Lastminute.com as technical project manager.
- **2001 – left to travel in Central America, where he learned Spanish.**
- 2002 – started working part-time as a consultant for Holiday Extras and for a telecoms firm in Maidstone, but became increasingly involved with the family business to build the systems and web team behind the company as web and marketing director – became CEO in January.

ENTERPRISING: The futuristic, open-plan interior of Holiday Extras' Hythe offices. The eco-friendly building – which cost £6m – won a KCC design award in 2003-04

packs a holiday punch

make holidaying better and easier."

The philosophy founded the firm in 1983. It was launched as the Apple Booking Company in Ashford by Matthew's father Gerry Pack, formerly with Folkestone-based travel and insurance specialist Saga.

Pack Snr wanted to provide an easy and cheaper way for leisure travellers to book an overnight hotel stay at a time when the system was clumsy and time-consuming and travel agents hated it.

He created a win-win situation for all by becoming a hotel room wholesaler, selling them to agents at a discounted rate that still offered him a profit and delivered new business to hotels, commission and less hassle to agents, and a better deal for customers – a beautiful relationship extended into other travel sectors.

It was selling travel insurance by 1986 and adding airport parking in 1988, later becoming ABC Holiday Extras at Smeeth, on the same site now used by KOS Media.

During the 1990s it started acquiring its own airport car parks, but the real take-off came in 2000 with the launch of the firm's own website, enabling it to straddle both sides of the holiday business – trade and consumer.

Matthew recalled: "The internet made it so much easier to get in front of the customer. Previously, people would book holidays with the same operator or even a familiar face at the local agent."

Streamlined

The company name was streamlined to Holiday Extras in 2003 and moved into its eye-catching £6m purpose-built offices soon after, which won Kent County Council's Building Design Award for 2003-04. Gerry Pack stood down as company chairman last year, but IT-trained Matthew – one of Gerry and wife Carol's four children – had not been sure he would follow into the family business.

"It was a thought but, until the internet came along, I was totally not interested," admitted Matthew. "What I really wanted to do was run my own software house; to write software and distribute it – for free if I wanted.

"But then I worked at Lastminute.com and that was a real eye-opener, with lots happening.

"And there's a culture of serial IT entrepreneurs in America that I love keeping tabs on. It doesn't always work for them and my father often says 'Be the second guy who learns from the first guy's mistakes', but wouldn't it be great to be the first and just do it right?"

Mistakes is not a familiar word at the company. Those awards testify to an exceptionally high 30 per cent level of customer response to questionnaires – they are asked to rate elements of their holiday bookings on a scale of one to 10.

"Very occasionally we might get a poor result," said Matthew. "It's very rarely a customer service issue, but we open a file and sit down with the supplier and try to get to the bottom of it. It may simply be down to unrealistic customer expectations, but we also look at our competitors' levels of service and know that we do what we do well."

He insists that customer service can sustain the company's growth despite industry regression. The holiday industry had been growing five to 10 per cent a year pre-recession and it has been a boom year for Holiday Extras despite travel disruption from the Iceland volcanic ash cloud and winter snows. But Matthew added: "That growth rate simply can't continue overall."

He recognises that people are spending less and are more aware of the environmental fall-out from travelling long distances, though he thinks some cutbacks in forward booking by the industry for 2011 have been unusually pessimistic.

Nevertheless, like many he thought the boom could continue and bring more regional airports into play, which had encouraged Holiday Extras to expand its in-house airport parking arm – it now holds thousands of spaces at key airports, but also books places on behalf of other sites.

But he reckons the downturn has slammed the door on Kent's would-be regional airports at Lydd and Manston for the moment. Then again, he's not the type to concede defeat. A keen sportsman, he windsurfs, snowboards and skis and is married with two children.

BLUE SKY THINKING: Holiday Extras' innovative approach has earned awards for Matthew Pack and his staff (inset)

MATTHEW'S TOP TIPS

• Learn how to talk to customers – "Many people pay lip service to this, but it really is fundamental stuff like 'have you answered the phone well?' And 'have you really taken on board what they have said to you?'."

• Happy staff means happy customers – "It's a philosophy from my father: 'get people coming through that revolving door every day with a smile on their face then you know you have a great place to be in – that will be passed onto the customer. So many places are just downright depressing. "We spend £50,000 a year on free teas and coffees, but it's worth it and when I asked our office manager for a list of small things under £200 to make people happy we got great ideas: £150 on a table football unit is money well spent on a young team who need a break from the web or the phones."

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KENT ADULT EDUCATION COMMUNITY LEARNING AND SKILLS Kent County Council

Making our mark on the Beautiful South

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

VISIT Kent – the private/public partnership promoting the county to tourists across the UK and overseas – is in the finals of the Beautiful South Awards for Tourism Excellence 2010.

Tourism South East has shortlisted Visit Kent in the Destination Marketing category of this year's awards. The winner will be announced on October 21.

Visit Kent, which recently launched its eye-catching Kent Contemporary campaign featuring stunning images of the county, and its first user-generated campaign, MyKent – sharing local people's stories and the places they love to visit – is no stranger to marketing awards.

Earlier this year Visit Kent was voted Destination Marketing Organisation of the Year by UKInbound, a leading tour operator, seeing off the challenge of such high-profile competitors as Visit London.

"Marketing our county is our core business and one we and our partners take great pride in," said Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent. "Making the shortlist is great recognition for the team and Visit Kent's partners who have worked together so effectively.

RECOGNITION: Sandra Matthews-Marsh

POSTER: The Goods Shed in Canterbury

"Tourism is extremely important to the Kent and Medway economy. We have more than 3,000 small and medium-sized businesses working in the sector supporting more than 50,000 jobs. Visitors to the area contribute £2.5 billion to the local economy every year.

"Our key aim is to work in partnership with local businesses and our local authorities to grow that market.

"We aim to enhance not only the range of experiences our visitors from home and overseas can enjoy but also to make a contribution to the quality of life for local residents."

MACH speeds up the isle's regeneration

MARGATE and the Isle of Thanet are to benefit from a new £500,000 three-year tourism regeneration programme by English Heritage and Arts Council England.

It is hoped that MACH (Margate Arts, Creativity, Heritage) which also includes Thanet District Council as a partner and is hosted by Margate Renewal Partnership, will leverage similar investment from other sources.

Margate is one of the resorts hit hardest by the decline of the UK tourism trade. A survey in December, last year, showed it had the highest proportion of empty shops in the country.

Dreamland

However, the world-class Turner Contemporary art gallery opens next year and Dreamland – the UK's first heritage amusement park – should follow in 2012.

The new money from MACH aims to complement these flagship schemes. Arts Council England's Stephanie Fuller said: "We know the arts is one of the fastest growing parts of our economy and that's why we believe successful regeneration has the arts at its core.

"Some of the UK's most celebrated artists have shaped Margate's colourful history and, with the Turner Contemporary opening next year, this project reflects our belief that arts and heritage have an important role to play in breathing new life into its future."

HOLIDAY Extras has been celebrated once again as the travel agents' favourite supplier of holiday add-ons in the Travel Bulletin Star Awards. The Hythe-based firm scooped the Star Holiday Add-ons Operator category at an awards night in London hosted by TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith.

James Lewis, strategic partnerships manager at HolidayExtras.com, collected the award on behalf of the company. "We're thrilled," he said.

"We have worked particularly hard this year to support our travel partners with great add-ons at the right price at the right locations.

"Thanks to everyone who voted for us. This award is much appreciated by the whole team at Holiday Extras."

The firm claims to be the UK's No1 for pre-booked airport hotels and airport parking and a record-breaking 99.88 per cent of customers report being satisfied with Holiday Extras products and service.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on the finance and legal sectors

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** A KENT swimmer came agonisingly close to crossing the Channel, but was forced to abandon her attempt just 400 metres from Calais beach.

Rosemary George, a 21-year-old hotel receptionist from Dover, swam for a total of 21 hours and 10 minutes and was close enough to be able to see people walking around on the shore when the tide changed and began pushing her back out to see.

With the mist descending, George's motor boat escort was nowhere to be seen, but she climbed into the rowing boat that was tailing her and was taken ashore.

When she and her pilot reached dry land they were asked by Calais police to explain what they were doing, but after some difficulties due to the language barrier, the coastguards realised what they'd been doing, successfully located their motor boat and escorted it to safety.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** HUGHIE Batchelor, the farmer twice thrown in jail for bulldozing thousands of acres of woodland on the North Downs, was accused of doing "everything he could to ruin the spectacle" of the first ever Maidstone half-marathon.

Batchelor, driving home from a pub after midnight and possibly suffering from impaired vision, removed a number of direction markers and mile signs on the route, claiming he'd thought they were 'for sale' signs wrongly put up on his land.

"I thought someone from my local pub was playing a prank on me, so I took the notices down," Batchelor said, a claim ridiculed by race organiser Bob Pearce.

Despite the incident, the event was hailed a success, with 992 finishers out of 1,200 entrants.

The men's race was won by Kerry Hayes of GEC Avionics, while Ann Whiteman of Cambridge Harriers was the first woman home.

Brian Moore resigned as a director of Gillingham, citing work commitments at ITV.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** A SUPERB performance in the field saw Kent secure survival in Division One of the National League, as they routed Worcestershire by eight wickets at New Road.

Having narrowly avoided relegation in the County Championship, Kent pulled off the second part of their Great Escape by bowling Worcestershire out for just 98 in 36.3 overs.

Martin Saggers claimed 3 for 25, while Steve Marsh, opening the batting in his final game before retirement, made Kent's highest score of 38 as the visitors knocked off the runs needed in the 27th over for the loss of two wickets.

Ladies' World Cup heroics to inspire county players

ROLE MODEL: England World Cup star Rachael Burford
Picture: ADY KERRY

By STEVE TERVET

ENGLAND'S run to the rugby World Cup final has boosted the sport's profile around Kent, with hundreds of young players now bidding to follow in Cath Spencer's footsteps.

The women's game was already in a healthy state before the tournament and the county's clubs are now expecting the success of the national side to trigger a new wave of players at their level.

With England captain Spencer, Rachael Burford and Amy Garnett all progressing from club rugby in Kent to represent their country, aspiring female players could have no better incentive to take up the sport.

Aylesford Bulls boast the largest female set-up in Kent and chairman Roger Williams said the World Cup would further swell their ranks ahead of the new season.

As a member of the Kent Regional Development Board, though, his main wish is to see an influx of new players around the county, whether it be at Aylesford or elsewhere.

"It's having a very positive impact," he said. "There's quite a bit of development activity and the squad's just increased, with new players coming in. We haven't had the wastage we'd normally have and the sport's profile has been raised by the World Cup. Kent is one of the strongest counties in the country and the talent coming through in women's rugby is significantly larger."

Aylesford's league programme sees them take on Harlequins and Blackheath among others, while 15-year-old Florence Williams has already been called up to represent England under-18s.

STRONG PACK: Aylesford Bulls (red) and Thanet Wanderers (in blue) ladies in action

However, they are not the only Kent club making forward strides, with Folkestone and Beckenham both developing their female sections while Tonbridge Juddians are relative newcomers to the women's game.

Thanet Wanderers, meanwhile, have run ladies' sides for more than a decade and coach Maggie Watts believes the World Cup is triggering new levels of interest.

She said: "We had an influx of players last year when it was announced the World Cup was coming here. Women's rugby has got more exposure and the tournament was a huge inspiration to our girls."

The Kent women's trials take place at Gravesend RFC next Sunday, with Burford and England team-mate Maggie Alphonsi expected to be among those running their eyes over the county's finest new talent.

• ***Any girls interested in taking up rugby this season can contact Roger Williams (Aylesford Bulls chairman) on 07951 057840.***

Club juniors celebrate title win

A COMMITMENT to developing young athletic talent continues to pay off for Blackheath & Bromley Harriers, who won the National Junior Athletic League last weekend.

The girls' team continued their dominance in the competition, finishing a massive 30 points clear of their nearest challengers, Team Edinburgh, to claim a sixth successive title.

The boys came home fifth in their league, but accumulated enough points to allow Blackheath & Bromley to pip Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers to the overall title.

The victory for the girls means next year they will again represent Great Britain at the European Champions Club Cup. The team are in Poland this weekend for the 2010 competition, which they qualified for by winning the domestic title last summer.

Mike Sheppard, assistant to girls' team manager Tim Soutar, feels the club are gaining a welcome reputation for nurturing talent.

He said: "It's down to a lot of hard work from the coaches to keep the athletes interested and proving to them the importance of performing for the team.

"It helps when you have people like [Olympic sprinter] Montell Douglas and others like Lorraine Ugen and Dan Putnam, who were at the Junior World Championships recently, at the club so the youngsters do see what could happen in the future."

Katrina Cosby was one of the Harriers' star performers at Derby last weekend. She won the A-string 400-metre hurdles, the 400m and 100m hurdles in the B-string, and was part of the successful 4x400m relay team.

Picture: JAY GALLEY

CHAMPIONS: Blackheath & Bromley Harriers (no22) clinched the national junior league title

Caprice is in

FORMER Kent schoolboy Dan Caprice will jet off to India next month after being selected in England's rugby sevens squad for the Commonwealth Games.

The 20-year-old back, who plays his club rugby with Blackheath, is among the 12-man squad headed for Delhi, where England will play Australia, Sri Lanka and Uganda in the pool stages from October 11-12.

Caprice captained Chatham Grammar School and went on to represent Sevenoaks School before moving into club rugby with the Saracens academy and Maidstone.

He represented Kent at under-15 at under-18 level and he goes to the Games having already played for the England sevens team in six IRB World Series events.

Doran race away from Euro runner-up spot

LIAM Doran heads into the final round of the European Rallycross Championship on Sunday, on the verge of clinching a runners up spot.

A strong result for the 23-year-old driver in the Czech Republic could see him become the first Brit to finish in the top three in the championship for 16 years.

Last weekend the Sittingbourne racer proved to the rest of the paddock he has the potential to be a force in the championship in the future after racking up his second win of the season. Driving for multiple European champion Kenneth Hansen's Citroen team, he stormed to victory in the Polish round of the championship, finishing an impressive 18 seconds ahead of nearest rival Frode Holte.

Fresh from his win, Doran has his eye on completing the season on a high with another trip to the top step of the podium.

He said: "After I won in Finland I thought that I could win again this year, but I didn't expect it to be at Poland because everyone had told me this was such a difficult track to learn. My plan was to come here and do what I could and then go for a win in the Czech Republic because I know the track.

"I raced there last year and I love it, I'm completely up for another win now."

FINALE: Liam Doran is in action in the Czech Republic

TALKS A GOOD GAME

We meet the 32-year-old charged with turning around the flagging fortunes of some of Kent's top clubs

Interview with sports editor **GLENN PEARSON**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Paul Dolan's (right) remit is to develop football in the county and make the Kent FA more business focused

'Senior clubs' survival vital to the county FA'

Kent FA chief executive in waiting Paul Dolan talks about his plans for the future of football when he takes over from Keith Masters, who steps down from the role in January

THERE are a few big issues awaiting the new man tasked with leading football in the county, but perhaps none bigger than the immediate future of Kent's senior clubs.

The KCFA announced last week that Paul Dolan will take over from Keith Masters as chief executive in January, with the intention of making the association, which governs and develops football in the county, more business focused.

One of his tasks sitting in an in-tray that's likely to be at bursting point by the turn of the year, is to help buck the trend threatening the existence of several of Kent's senior football clubs.

Attendances for games in midweek highlighted that growing problem, with just 121 turning out to see the Kent derby between Chatham Town and Ramsgate, while just 30 bothered to see a six-goal thriller between Sevenoaks Town and Beckenham.

A number of sides in the last two years have sailed too close to the wind for comfort, and while some of those clubs must take responsibility for their own actions, such as failing to deal with unpaid tax bills, Dolan says it's something he is keen to address when he takes up office.

Attendances

"The senior clubs are vital to us as a county FA and we don't want to see any of them fold," he said. "We are here to support all clubs, regardless of their status and our role is to help and assist where we can and I'd encourage them to engage with their local communities.

"It's highlighted a lot that there are dwindling attendances at senior football matches, now that is probably a sign of the times and the economic climate, but clubs at that level can't rely on gate money alone any more. What we would assist clubs with is becoming community focused and not just being about that first-team of 11 players."

Dolan, who has been with the KCFA for seven years as county development manager, also sees one of his priorities as assisting with the creating of a step six league. At present there is no division between the Kent County League (step seven) and Kent League (step five), which means clubs that win the former are unable to gain promotion because of the stringent ground requirements needed at step five.

Dolan has experience of playing in the County League with Sevenoaks-based side Chipstead and he says that a step six league is now vital for clubs and the strength of the Kent League.

"Having played in the Kent County League, one of the priorities moving forward has to be the creation of a step six league," he said. "The jump from the county league at step seven to the Kent League at step five is just too big. Clubs are winning the County League and can't progress because facilities at Kent League level are just too big a leap.

"Trying to push that forward is not going to be easy, but for the progression of some our clubs, it's vital."

The appointment of Dolan is a clear step away from the old-fashioned secretarial chief executive, and the 32-year-old will now be charged with growing an association that is switching its attention away from being just a regulatory body, and instead getting involved with the development of the game in the county.

"It's about getting football on the agenda for MPs and local councils so they are aware of the additional benefits football brings. I think it has such an impact and I don't think people are fully aware of it," Dolan said.

That also includes helping bring money into Kent to help improve facilities, still one of the big priorities for the KCFA, as well as safeguarding playing fields which will be under threat from developments such as those at Ashford and the Thames Gateway.

The decline of 11 v 11 football is also a cause for concern, although small-sided football – which has become increasingly popular in recent years – is enabling people to remain in the game. It has often been seen as the poor relation, but Dolan is keen to bring it under the KCFA's remit and embrace it for what it is.

DECLINE: The future of the 11 v 11 game is a cause for concern, says Dolan

"There is a trend to say there is going to be more small-sided teams in England than 11-a-side," he said. "It's here to stay and we need to make sure we are reflective of what's happening.

"Some say it's the demise of adult football, but I'm not too sure it is. It shouldn't be ignored, it's here and it's here to stay and we need to make sure it's appropriately governed and developed to contribute to what I still think is grassroots football."

Dolan will shadow current chief executive Keith Masters in January, who leaves after 32 years' service.

McPherson and steed to take on the world

PREPARATIONS could not have gone better for Kent showjumper David McPherson as he prepares to represent Great Britain in the world's premier equestrian event.

McPherson will ride his own horse, Chamberlain Z, at the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky, and the 50-year-old will fly out full of confidence after a strong year in the saddle.

"Our preparation's been perfect," he said. "He's a fabulous horse and has stepped up to the plate and done more than what I've asked of him.

"It's a huge honour to represent your country. If I don't jump two clear rounds for the team, I'll be mortified, although it won't be easy."

The Games, from September 25 to October 10, are considered to be more important than the Olympics by many, although McPherson admits his ultimate goal is to appear at London in two years' time.

Based in Nettlestead, near Maidstone, McPherson competed for South Africa earlier in his career, but he is firmly in the British camp now and will ride alongside teammates Scott Brash, Tina Fletcher and Michael Whitaker in Kentucky.

McPherson said: "The gameplan has always been to build towards 2012 and although this has come earlier, [Chamberlain Z] seems to be coping. You need to go to the Olympic Games with a depth of experience and can't go after just one season."

WELL PREPARED: David McPherson and Chamberlain Z

Stevens' efforts net player of year award

KENT all-rounder Darren Stevens was named Player of the Year after an excellent season with both bat and ball.

The 34 year-old has been the stand out player in all competitions for Kent, leading the way in the batting averages in first-class cricket, and having to open the bowling in both the championship and Twenty20.

The former Leicestershire man said: "I am delighted to be named Kent player of the year. It means a lot because the members and supporters have voted for me. I would like to thank everyone for all of the backing I have received this year."

Khan completes move to Sussex

AMJAD Khan has finally completed his move from Kent to Sussex, signing a three-year deal with the LV= County Championship Division Two champions.

The seamer was released by Kent last month after the county were unable to make him an offer and he will join up with the Sussex squad next season.

Khan said: "My nine years with Kent have been fantastic and it was a wrench to leave, but I needed a new start and a fresh challenge. Sussex has a great reputation for supporting and developing its squad and I am excited about the prospects for the rest of my career as I have no intention of being a one-cap Test cricketer."

Aitken bidding to make cut in Spain

CLAIRE Aitken will be hoping to maintain her good form when the Open de Espana Femenino reaches its climax on Sunday.

The 24-year-old has made three of the last four cuts on the Ladies European Tour (LET), most recently in France last weekend.

It is her best sequence of results since joining the Tour last year and has boosted her hopes of finishing high enough on the rankings to avoid going back to qualifying school this winter.

The Gravesend golfer has progressed steadily this season and has almost won twice as much prize money as in her debut year.

This weekend's tournament in Malaga is the final stop in Europe on the LET's before the final run of events in Asia.

Tommy king of the Hill after Croft result

TOMMY Hill moved a step closer to clinching his maiden British Superbike Championship title after taking the lead in the standings last weekend.

The Beckenham-born rider has built a 16-point lead after recording a win and a second place finish at Yorkshire's Croft circuit in the first of three title deciding meetings known as the Showdown.

He said: "I am just over the moon with how the Showdown has started for me."

Hill will hope to extend his lead further in the penultimate event of the season at Silverstone next weekend.

County amateur in drive for title glory

Picture: ADY KERRY

FINAL CHANCE: Michael Saunders

THE ENGLISH County Champions final is held this weekend and Michael Saunders hopes to catch the eye as Kent's representative.

The 20-year-old qualified for Sunday's 36-hole competition by winning the Kent Amateur Championship in June. He will go up against county champions from around the country, all battling for the coveted Presidents Bowl.

Saunders, who plays at Dartford Golf Club, is relishing the chance of taking on some of the country's best amateurs at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire.

He said: "I knew playing this tournament was one of the bonuses of winning the Kent Amateurs and it means a lot to play in it. It's an exclusive field, the best of the best, and it might be my only chance to play in it.

"There are players in the field who play for England, so it would be nice to make a name for myself. It's at the home of the English Golf Union, so there will be some important people there watching. I'd like to do Kent proud, hopefully if I win it would lead me on to better things."

A strong finish could put Saunders in contention for a call-up to the England squad as he looks to gain experience before attempting European Tour Qualifying School in 12 months' time.

There have only ever been two Kent winners in the County Champions final's 48-year history, the most recent coming in 1990.

Last weekend Rochester & Cobham Park represented Kent in the English Champion Club tournament in Suffolk. Jack Colegate was their best performer, finishing the 36-hole competition at four-over-par. His team-mates Alfie Plant and Jordan Godwin struggled with the Woodbridge course as the team finished 26th out of 34 teams.

London Club thrown a lifeline by Ladies Tour

New hope after Solheim Cup disappointment

THE LADIES European Tour (LET) have raised the possibility of hosting an event at the London Golf Club despite turning down their application to host the Solheim Cup in 2015.

To avoid clubs in the UK competing against each other in the final bidding process, all interested parties submitted a pre-bid document to the LET and UK Sport earlier this month.

After looking at the relative benefits of the proposals, the London Club lost out to Forest Pines in Lincolnshire. They were selected as the UK's preferred bidder for the biennial tournament, which is women's golf's equivalent to the Ryder Cup.

The decision was a significant blow to the club, near Ash, which is still waiting on a decision from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on its plans to build a 130-bed hotel and leisure facilities onsite.

The LET were quick to emphasise the process may not be completely in vain for the course.

The impression made during bidding could be a lasting one, with Mark Casey, LET director of operations, saying they "would love to work with the London Club in the future, they have a great marketing team and facilities".

The club have a strong track record of holding big events. They successfully hosted the European Open on the men's European Tour in 2008 and 2009 after proving themselves by staging a series of tournaments on the Seniors Tour.

The LET used to be a regular visitor to Kent when Chart Hills hosted the Ladies' English Open, which was last held at the course near Tenterden in 2007.

The London Club were unavailable for comment, but as Solheim Cup bidders they had to show a willingness to stage an LET event, which is part of the conditions laid down to capitalise on the legacy for the winning club.

While missing out on the biggest tournament in women's golf is disappointing, the club could at least take consolation in the reasons which counted against them.

While Forest Pines' bid was seen as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for their region, the same view was not taken about Kent's sporting landscape.

Casey said: "Both clubs are great golf courses with superb facilities and it was a very tough decision for the three-strong independent panel.

"The panel also took into account that Royal St George's is staging the Open Championship at Sandwich next year, and that Kent will be heavily involved with the London Olympics in 2012."

BIG STAGE: Colin Montgomerie waits to tee off at the European Open at the London Club, which was the last major tournament held at the course Picture: ADY KERRY

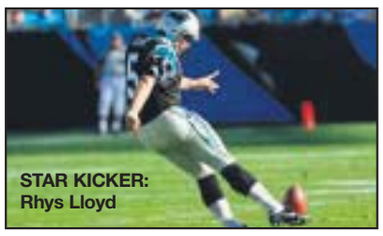
Englishman getting his kicks in the US

A KENT-born American football player will continue his stay in the NFL after agreeing to rejoin Carolina Panthers this week.

Dover's Rhys Lloyd, who is one of a handful of British players in the NFL, looked as though he would sit out the new season, which began last week, following his release from Minnesota Vikings.

However, former club Carolina Panthers have moved quickly to sign the kick-off specialist for the new campaign.

The 28-year-old, an ex-pupil at Dover's Astor College for Arts, left Kent aged 15 when his family moved to America. A former Chelsea FC youth player, he began playing American football while at college in Minnesota.



STAR KICKER: Rhys Lloyd

This season will be his fourth consecutive campaign in the NFL after beginning his career with Baltimore Ravens in 2007. He joined Carolina in the following season before signing for the Vikings.

Last season he was part of a side that suffered a last-gasp defeat in the play-offs against New Orleans Saints, denying them a place in the 2010 Super Bowl.

Lloyd is regarded as one of the division's top kickers, with his best return coming in 2008 when he led the NFL touchbacks standings with 30.

He is expected to make his NFL return on Sunday when the Panthers host Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the 73,000 capacity Bank of America Stadium.

Jack the lad proves he is man enough for Gills job

HOT PROSPECT: Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler says Jack Payne could have a future in the Premier League
Picture: ADY KERRY

Gym work and a level head helps teen grow into first-team regular

By DAVID PRITCHARD

THE VERY definition of an old head on young shoulders, Jack Payne is steadfastly refusing to get carried away with the hype after making a hugely promising start to his career.

The Gillingham midfielder is not 19 until December, but is rapidly becoming one of the first names on the team sheet. His performances have won effusive praise from manager Andy Hessenthaler and his predecessor Mark Stimson, who handed Payne his first-team debut aged 16.

Bulked up

Even after more than a year of working in the gym to bulk up his slight frame, he looks ill-equipped to deal with life in central midfield – which in League Two can be more akin to trench warfare.

But helped by a level of composure and positional sense rarely seen in someone so young, Payne is not often outmuscled.

After only a few months at the club, Hessenthaler is convinced the teenager, who signed a three-year contract extension last year, has what it takes to reach the Premier League.

He said: "At 18, his performance last weekend [against Shrewsbury] was frightening and I'm glad we've tied him up for quite a long-term contract because I'm sure if he keeps performing like that I'm sure there's going to be more and more scouts in the stand watching him.

"Personally I don't think he would be out of place in the Championship right now, even at his age. If he keeps doing what he's doing, I can see him playing at the top level without a doubt in the future."

The current Gills boss is not the only member of Payne's fan club. Had he stayed on in charge, Stimson suggested he was planning to build the entire team around the midfielder this season, virtually unheard of for someone so young.

Payne welcomes the faith put in him by the coaching staff, but appears genuinely uninterested in taking the plaudits.

He said: "I think about it, but I just need to keep playing because I know how quickly it can turn around and be out of the side. I've just got to keep my head down on the training pitch and work as hard as I can on a Saturday.

"This season is massive for me. Last season I was in and out of the side, but this year I really want to cement my place."

Should he stay fit, getting in the side will not be a problem and another successful season individually could leave Gillingham with a fight on their hands to keep hold of their hottest prospect. Loyalty can be in short supply where transfers are concerned, but Payne is unlikely to be the one agitating for a move if an offer does come in.

He said: "I love it here, I've been here since I was 10. I only live 15 minutes away, it's my club and I owe a lot to them."

Picture: SIMON HARRIS

LOAN EXTENSION? Harry Crawford (in blue)

Whites still on the lookout for striker

CONFERENCE South high-fliers Dover Athletic could be in the market for a new striker if they are unable to extend Harry Crawford's loan from Southend United.

The 18-year-old striker joined the Whites on an initial one-month loan from the League Two side, which expired after yesterday's game against Farnborough.

With only three strikers in Ben Hunt, Adam Birchall and Elliott Charles on the club's books, Dover boss Martin Hayes in keen to extend Crawford's loan after impressing in a handful of appearances for the club. However, if he is unable to secure a deal which allows the striker to play in the FA Cup, Hayes could be forced to look elsewhere for reinforcements.

He said: "We are looking to extend Harry's loan, but it will all depend on whether he can play for us in the FA Cup. If we get through to the next round then he would only be able to play a couple of games for us.

"I'm happy with three strikers as they are all working well, but in an ideal world I would like to have four.

"If someone becomes available that would be able to help us then I would be interested, but strikers of that nature are quite difficult to find at the moment."

Hayes has organised a friendly against Kent League side Herne Bay at Winch's Field on Tuesday in order give his fringe players a run out. Kick-off is at 7.30pm.

FAST FORMAT: Kent's Barry Hawkins

World Open the stage as Hawk takes on Selby

A NEW shorter format could help Barry Hawkins upset Mark Selby in the first round of the World Open tonight.

The early rounds of the rebranded tournament, formerly the Grand Prix, are decided on the best of five frames.

With only three frames needed to progress to the last 32 it means there is a good chance for Hawkins, ranked 25th in the world, to knock out the world number nine.

The Dartford potter goes into the tournament in Glasgow in reasonable form after an encouraging summer which has seen reach two last 16s and one quarter-final in the new Tour Championship.

Picture: DAVE PLUMB

MISSING PIECE: Liam Daish is hoping striker Gareth Williams is a success for Ebbsfleet

Striker Williams could be final piece in Fleet jigsaw

EBBSFLEET United manager Liam Daish believes new signing Gareth Williams could prove to be the missing piece in his Stonebridge Road goal-scoring puzzle.

Williams, a casualty of the crisis at Croydon Athletic, has Football League experience with Crystal Palace, Colchester United and Blackpool, and has played for Wales under-21s.

Daish's hunt for a new centre-forward appeared to have met a dead-end when Leon Knight and Liam Marum turned down moves to north Kent, but the Fleet boss has high hopes for the 28-year-old.

"We're having a look at Gareth, technically he's very good and he finds space for himself," Daish said. "You do get space in this league, it's how you use it.

"Gareth doesn't try to slash at things, he places his shots. He gives us something a bit different and he tends to make the right decisions when he gets into space."

In the absence of injured striker Scott Ginty, the Fleet manager has challenged the rest of his side to fill the goalscoring void, and he praised midfielder Craig Stone for netting a crucial winner away to Dorchester Town last weekend.

He said: "Games are very open in this league, teams sit very deep and if you don't take your chances it can hurt you. Credit to Craig because it's been a while since his last goal, so hopefully that's the first of a few for him.

"That's what I need, players from midfield and centre-half to chip in."

'STAY AND FIGHT'

Coach's plea to players after Kent are relegated on a dramatic final day of the County Championship

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT head coach Paul Farbrace has called for his players to commit their futures as "quickly as possible" in the wake of the club's relegation to Division Two of the LV= County Championship this week.

Despite a four-wicket win against Yorkshire at Headingley on the final day of the season, Warwickshire's 10-wicket victory at Hampshire meant Kent were relegated back to Division Two, alongside Essex.

James Tredwell took career-best figures of 7 for 22, including a hat-trick, while Alex Blake hit a maiden first-class century and Dewald Nel took nine wickets on his championship debut, but it proved fruitless as Kent make an immediate return to the second tier.

Understandably disappointed with the prospect of not playing in Division One next season, Farbrace denied relegation would be good for his side, who, due to financial pressures off the field, will begin next summer with a squad of just 15 players.

"I don't like the idea of talking about we will be better off in Division Two because I want to be associated with players that want to be as good as they can be, and wanting to play as high as they can," he said. "I know in this team, that is what they want.

"It may turn out to be beneficial to some of our young players, but the sooner we are back in Division One and competing with the best teams the better. If that takes a while to turn around, then we will all have to be patient.

"It's up to us to fight as hard as we can to get back to Division One, but whether that's an immediate return I wouldn't want to say."

Some of the club's supporters have reacted angrily to comments made by James Tredwell in his column for this newspaper, in which the off-spinner said he would be assessing his options at the end of the season.

Farbrace said he understands why Tredwell, Martin van Jaarsveld and Darren Stevens are concerned about the future at Kent, but insists they are committed to the cause.

He said: "I know [Tredwell] made some comments about reviewing his future and there have been some people that are disappointed he has come out and said that, but he has shown in this game how committed he is to Kent Cricket Club.

"You can understand why they have said these things, but they have shown by their effort and commitment on the field they are desperate to do what they can for Kent.

"We all know that with the club's financial situation it's going to be very difficult for a couple of years, but that doesn't mean you sit back and say 'we are going to be the whipping boys'. We want to compete next year."

With speculation about the majority of the squad likely to continue throughout the winter, the Kent coach has called for the club and the players to come to a quick decision to bring some stability.

He said: "I would like the players to be in a position to commit their future to Kent as soon as possible. We will have 15 players left on our staff and I want all of them reporting back on the first day of pre-season next year.

"You read the likes of possibly van Jaarsveld, Tredwell and Stevens are interesting other people, but I want them at Kent next season. I'm desperate to keep them all.

"The sooner the club and the players are able to have detailed discussions the better, and then we can sit down and talk to some of these boys about signing extensions."

HOLLOW VICTORY: Darren Stevens tries to console James Tredwell after Kent were consigned to relegation despite a last day win at Yorkshire, while left-hander Alex Blake (left), hit his maiden century for the county at Headingley Pictures: ADY KERRY

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Gills to loan out players to ease pressure on wage bill

DANNY Jackman and Luke Rooney are among the players available for loan as Gillingham look to ease the pressure on their wage budget, ***writes David Pritchard.***

The wage bill could go up in the short-term, with the club offering a contract to French-born forward Bruce Inkango, who impressed while on trial.

A decision on the loan deal was expected by this weekend, but even if the move does not go through there is a need to move players out. With the injury list now shortening, Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler is looking to get players on the fringes of his squad competitive games.

"We've over-stretched it and there will be players that need to go out on loan," he said.

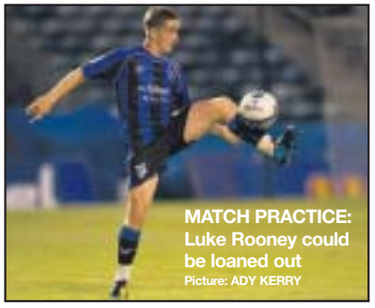
"Danny Jackman's been out with a knee problem, when he comes back he'll need to go out on loan. There are also players like Kevin Maher and Luke Rooney who have been in the squad, but how long are they going to sit on the bench when they're not playing?

"They're going to need games."

Teenage defender Connor Essam, who has done well in the reserves this season, is also likely to have a spell in the Conference to develop his game.

If all goes to plan with Inkango, the 26-year-old could feature in Gillingham's home game against Burton Albion next weekend. The versatile attacker, who has played second division football in France, showed enough in two reserve outings to prompt a contract offer which would keep him at the club until January.

Hessenthaler said: "He gives us something different, there's [Andy] Barcham who's an out-and-out winger whose pace causes problems. We don't have anyone else who does that, but this kid does. He can turn a game with his pace and trickery."



MATCH PRACTICE: Luke Rooney could be loaned out Picture: ADY KERRY

Wings clipped

WELLING United have been docked five league points and handed a suspended £5,000 fine after admitting a misconduct charge relating to their financial difficulties.

The Wings were served with a winding-up petition in August, having run up HMRC debts of £90,000, and they were handed their punishment at a Football Conference hearing on Thursday.

Owner Barrie Hobbins said the club could appeal, but accepted Welling had given the Conference income predictions which they could not deliver.

He said: "As soon as it became evident the promised investment would not materialise, we made the Football Conference fully aware of the position and admitted the charges that were laid against us."

Welling dropped five places in the Conference South prior to Saturday's fixtures as a result of the points deduction.

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